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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 34th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 9 April 1990

### Standing Committee on Resources Development

Organization

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

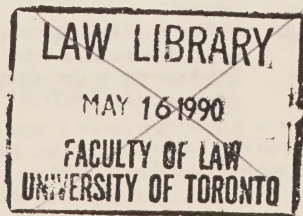
Deuxième session, 34<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 9 avril 1990

### Comité permanent du développement des ressources

Organisation



Chair: Floyd Laughren  
Clerk: Lynn Mellor

Président : Floyd Laughren  
Secrétaire : Lynn Mellor

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Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears at the back, together with a list of committee members and other members taking part.

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### **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste des membres du comité et des autres députés ayant participé.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Monday 9 April 1990

The committee met at 1544 in committee room 1.

### ORGANIZATION

**The Chair:** The standing committee on resources development will come to order. I do believe that we should get started. Even though the Conservative members are not here yet, I think there are enough others here that we really should proceed.

Members will know that the steering committee of this committee met a couple of times last week to talk about what the agenda of the committee should be. That was last Monday and Wednesday. Flowing from that were two sets of recommendations: One was to proceed with the private members' bills in the name of Mr Pollock, Mr Wildman and Mr Philip; and the second option was to proceed with workplace literacy as an issue that we would examine between now and the time the House adjourned.

I do not know if that was put specifically by Mr Dietsch, who was at the committee, but I think that was the understanding. It would be examined between now and when the House adjourns for the summer. I do not want to put words in your mouth. That was my understanding. The summer schedule of the committee would be left to another time to make a decision on. That was my understanding of the steering committee's discussion. I would suggest to the committee that we make a decision today on the two options.

Second, if members would have a look at the budget—

**Clerk of the Committee:** We have not got it yet.

**The Chair:** Oh, we have not got it yet. Okay. Perhaps if the debate gets repetitious on the options, you could have a look at the budget and we could make a decision on the committee budget this afternoon. We do not have to, but it would be nice if we could.

**Miss Roberts:** If I might, the board meets on the 23rd, so you should do it as soon as you can if you want your budget.

**The Chair:** I agree. Thank you. So we are open for debate on which of the two options we should proceed with between now and the time the House adjourns.

**Mr Wildman:** When you say adjourns, do you mean the end of June?

**The Chair:** That is what I meant, yes.

**Mr Wildman:** Right, okay. I would suggest, if it is in order, that we deal first with option 1, discuss that, and then move on to discuss option 2 put forward by the subcommittee, if that is acceptable to you, Mr Chairman.

**The Chair:** Yes. Mr Wildman moves that the standing committee on resources development schedule consideration of private members' Bills 67, 190 and 129 for hearings and clause-by-clause debate this session.

Basically, what Mr Wildman has done is move option 1 as the committee business for this session. Am I saying it correctly? Do you wish to speak to your motion, Mr Wildman?

**Mr Wildman:** Yes. I had hoped that we would have a representative for Mr Pollock here from the Conservative caucus to speak to his bill. I know that he was anxious to be here, but he personally had an earlier commitment, and he is not a member of the committee, so he did not have as much warning as perhaps the rest of us might have had that this meeting would be taking place. But he did indicate that one of his other members would be here to debate it. I do not think that I will spend much time on that part of my motion, other than to say that Bill 67 is not a particularly controversial bill and would not take a long time to deal with.

**The Chair:** Mr Pollock's bill on recreational trails?

**Mr Wildman:** Yes. I hope that the committee would deal with that bill.

I am obviously particularly interested in Bill 190, the bill that I put forward, An Act to amend the Animals for Research Act, and also Bill 129, put forward by my colleague from Etobicoke-Rexdale, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment; that is the zoo bill.

I should make clear that I am not opposed to dealing with workplace literacy, to having this committee deal with that option. I will speak to that later if we get to discussing that. I think it is an important issue and one that the committee should consider if the committee has time.

However, I do want to indicate clearly that these three private members' bills have been before this committee for a very long time. In the case of Bill 190, An act to amend the Animals for Research Act, second reading took place on 8 December 1988 and it was referred to this committee. That is well over a year ago.

Initially the committee scheduled two days for hearings on the bill earlier this year but, because of what was happening in the Legislative Assembly, that hearing was truncated. There was a bell-ringing episode which made it impossible for the committee to proceed on one of those two days. Frankly, it was not the fault of anyone on the committee, but we treated the witnesses rather shabbily, the witnesses both for and against the bill.

1550

**Mr Dietsch:** Who did that, by the way?

**Mr Wildman:** I believe it was the official opposition that was very concerned about legislation that was being improperly acted upon by the government in the House.

At any rate, the witnesses were not able to make full presentations before the committee. The ones who were able to make presentations indicated that this was an important bill and one that had some controversy surrounding it. A number of people spoke in favour; a number also spoke against. Most of those who spoke against spoke about medical research or veterinary research, pharmaceuticals. As members will know, the bill is not designed to prohibit those kinds of research on animals, but there were concerns raised by people in the research community.



Subsequent to that, members will know, and they are part of the package, I prepared amendments which would respond, I think, to the main concerns raised by those people and have tabled them with the committee. Obviously I have not presented them because we have not dealt with the bill. I have not presented them officially, but you have them in your package. Those amendments would more clearly define what is meant by a consumer product to ensure that it does not include pesticides and herbicides and other agricultural products or industrial chemicals. That is one of the concerns that was raised by some of the members of the committee during those hearings, that it might affect agriculture, and that amendment would make it clear that it does not. Also, a couple of the other amendments tighten up the language and ensure that the federal legislation that affects product testing is properly adhered to without requiring animal testing for cosmetics and household products.

My point is this: These bills, my bill in particular, Bill 190, but also the other two, have been before this committee for a very, very long time. We have not found time to deal with them. There is a considerable amount of interest in the public in this legislation. Members are aware that I have presented petitions with over 75,000 names on them in support of this legislation. I do not know how that compares with all of the other petitions that have been presented over the years, but frankly it has got to be one of the largest petitions ever presented in the House.

We have received—I think the Chair can attest to the fact that he has received many, many letters requesting that the committee schedule this bill for debate. I have over 300 letters requesting that the bill be scheduled, from all over Ontario. A vote today in favour of scheduling these bills is not a vote in favour of the bills. It is a procedural vote; it is a vote to say that we will indeed proceed with the bills. It will enable us to hold hearings and it will enable us to deal with the clause-by-clause, which is what the Legislative Assembly has charged this committee to do on these three pieces of legislation. It could very well happen that after the hearings were held on one or other or all three of the bills, significant amendments would be moved by members of the committee that might pass or that certain sections of the bill might be defeated or deleted, or in fact the committee might not support portions of the bills. I recognize that, so a vote today is not a vote on those issues; a vote today is simply on whether or not we should proceed.

I fully recognize that in this provincial Legislature, government legislation takes precedence over private members' bills, and I have no quarrel with that at all. Obviously the government has been elected, it has a mandate to proceed to pass legislation that it deems required to improve the welfare of the society as a whole, and that legislation should take precedence over individual members' legislation. I have no quarrel with that. As a result of that, we have not been able to proceed with these private members' bills up to now because this committee has had referred to it very important pieces of government legislation, the last one we dealt with being Bill 208, An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act. That was very important legislation and it was obvious that it would take precedence over these bills and that we would spend a lot of time on it. I was part of those hearings and the clause-by-clause debate on that bill and I recognize it as a very important piece of legislation and one that we should have dealt with in this committee. I am sorry, frankly, that we were not able to deal with it completely in this committee.

That is not the situation we have before us today. Today, we do not have any government legislation before this committee. There is not one piece of government legislation, not one

government bill referred, at this point, to this committee for this session. There is nothing to stop us proceeding with Bill 190, Bill 129 and Bill 67. The suggestion that we should be dealing with workplace literacy, a very important issue that we will be talking about later, does not preclude us proceeding with these bills now that we have the opportunity to do so. That is an important issue and one that members of the Legislature obviously would be interesting in dealing with, but it does not in any way prohibit us now from proceeding with these bills.

I will just conclude by saying that there is a tremendous amount of interest in my bill, I know my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale will want to speak to his bill and perhaps members of the Conservative caucus would want to speak to Mr Pollock's bill.

We have the opportunity now to show that private members' bills and private members' legislation actually mean something; that on those few occasions when private members introduce bills that pass second reading in the House that means something. It does not happen that often and it is completely inappropriate for those bills then just to disappear after they have passed second reading.

In most recent experience the government seems to have a tendency, when private members' bills do pass second reading, to refer them out and to say that they must be dealt with in committee of the whole House. I do not know the purpose of that. I do not know why that happens, but we have not seen any scheduling of committee of the whole, either, on private members' legislation, that I can recall.

#### 1600

It is interesting that last week, on Thursday during private members' hour, a private member's bill from a government backbencher did indeed pass second reading and, with unanimous consent from all sides, proceeded immediately to third reading and was passed so that it could become law. Now I think that is an indication that the opposition in that case is prepared to co-operate with a government private member to have legislation that he considers important passed, supported and passed into law.

I am not asking that members on the government side or the Conservative caucus support my legislation today. I am not asking that you report it for third reading today. I am asking that you show that the private members' process actually means something, that when it passes second reading it can indeed be dealt with by a committee and that the process can proceed. This is a procedural motion that I have moved. I am asking that all members of the committee, the majority and the minority, support the scheduling of these bills so that the private members' process can in fact work.

**Mrs Marland:** I am happy to support option 1. I want to say at the outset that I think there is a major issue before this committee this afternoon, and it is totally one of process. I think what the member for Algoma has just been saying bears some emphasis and some repetition. Unless the Liberal members of this committee are against a process which their government caucus voted in favour of when we looked at the new orders for the procedure of the House, if they vote against a process as presented in option 1 today, then they are going back on their word when all three parties agreed to the conduct of the business of the Legislature.

When you look at these bills, I think what is significant, and what is missed under option 1—the referral date of Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission, which is a private member's bill standing in the



name of my colleague Mr Pollock. It says on this sheet before us today that this was referred on 12 May 1988. But I think what is significant is that the bill received first reading on 10 December 1987. Here we are on 9 April 1990 discussing whether or not this committee will proceed on Mr Pollock's bill, which was referred to this committee almost two years ago, two years less a month.

I think that if the Liberal members of this committee do not support this motion this afternoon they make a mockery of the system and the process. When I look at the next two bills—Bill 67, the bill of my colleague Mr Pollock, is under item (a)—under item (b) and item (c) are two bills which I personally supported. I do not expect everybody to support and agree with everyone else in the House on the content of the bills, but I do expect them to honour the process. If the government has difficulty with these bills, then let it come in and we will deal with it. We are asking for only four days on each of Bill 190 and Bill 129, and two days on Bill 67.

What is it that we are paid to do as members of this Legislature if it is not to follow a process? The point that the member for Algoma makes about the fact that right now we do not have any bills referred to this committee is the very essence of what is indefensible this afternoon if the government members do not support option 1.

I do not know what the government members are going to do. I probably should have waited to speak after them, and I may have to speak after them, but I would assume that rather than reaching for another subject—now, there is no denial that workplace literacy is a very important subject. There is also no denial that we will have time to spend on that subject during the business of the House in the next two months since what we are asking for here is probably five weeks of sittings, I guess, at two days a week.

**The Chair:** Could I be helpful? I am sorry to interject. Do you notice the number of days beside each bill? That came from the people whose bills they are. In other words, Mr Pollock said two days for his, he thought, Mr Wildman said four, and Mr Philip said four.

**Mrs Marland:** Which is five weeks of sittings of the House.

**The Chair:** I am sorry, yes.

**Mrs Marland:** That is what I meant because we sit two days a week.

**The Chair:** You are right.

**Mrs Marland:** So here we are on 9 April and we are looking to sit until the end of June. I think there is ample time for us to deal with workplace literacy, but to get back to the argument of process, if the government members do not support the process of dealing with the bills—and it is up to them how they deal with them—whether they agree with them or not, then I think what we are looking at is a very questionable process.

Frankly, it would be more honest for the government to defeat these bills in the first place than to vote unanimously with the parties presenting them and to refer them to a committee and now, when the committee has the time because there is no other legislation referred to it, to not agree to deal with them. So I think, in light of the fact that we have not heard what the government is going to do, I will curtail my comments at this point in anticipation that the government is going to agree to at least deal with those bills, one of which has been on the order paper since two months after the last election, that being the bill

of my colleague Mr Pollock. It is just common sense for us to proceed with the obligation that we have as a committee, which is to deal with those matters of legislation that have been referred to us.

**Mr Philip:** I agree with my two colleagues that we should move for option 1, not simply because it happens to be my bill and I have been waiting two years to have it dealt with in committee but because I think that if the new rules that we have established in this House are to be at all meaningful, then we have to be consistent in how we follow them.

If private members' hour is to be meaningful, then the public, many of whom suggest or indeed spend a lot of time and effort in promoting some of the private members' bills, have to at least say that they have had their day before a committee, that they have had an opportunity to present their concerns, whichever side of the particular issue they are on.

We have a process whereby private members' bills are introduced in the House, they are debated and they are sent to committee. If they are sent to committee, the committee serves a number of purposes. One of the purposes is that it corrects any mistakes or false impressions or real impressions or errors in the bill. That is one of the opportunities that we will have with my bill. There have been some people who, for vested interests, have been circulating information in the province that is simply not accurate about the contents of my bill. It seems right that while members such as Mr Pollock have taken the time to find out exactly what is in the bill and satisfied themselves, there may be other people out there who have the wrong impression.

I think that we have an obligation, if there is so much effort put into a bill and if organizations and people have spent so much time lobbying and trying to educate the public in favour of a particular issue, that they at least have an opportunity to address members of the Legislature and to make their concerns known, be they for or against a particular issue.

1610

I think I have argued that, as society becomes increasingly complex, we have to develop processes that allow for a less polarized system, a less partisan system on a number of issues. Indeed, if you look at other parliaments, such as the British Parliament, the Australian Parliament, we see that they are moving to adopt some elements, I guess, of the congressional system that allow for more flexibility, more participation by ordinary members in setting of laws and in the development of regulations and commenting on both laws and regulations.

My colleague in the Liberal Party who sits for a seat just south of me, Dr Jim Henderson, has written extensively about that, as I have. He has written in the more popular press; I may have written in other types of journals, but we are in agreement, basically, that society is becoming so complex that there are some issues that cut across partisan party lines and that cannot be found in the election platforms of political parties. Where reasonable people, elected to make reasonable decisions, if they have an opportunity to find out what the facts are—and that is what the committee process allows. It allows for experts, it allows for the ordinary person on the street, the ordinary citizen to come forward and present views. I once said, and I still believe it, it is practically the only professional development program that members of the Legislature have, outside of an occasional conference that some of us may get to go to.

So we have, in the case of these three bills that have been waiting to be heard—I agree that there was government legislation before this committee and that the government legislation



was important legislation and that the committee should have dealt with the government legislation. But now we are faced with an opportunity to do both option 1 and option 2. I have some background in the field of andragogy—that was my adult education, if you do not know what the word “andragogy” means—and the field of literacy is a very extensive field.

If you are going to look at this in any kind of meaningful way, then you need at least to do some preparation. By dealing with these bills, which would take only five weeks, you would have an opportunity to establish the guidelines for the study under option 2 and indeed to commission the kind of research that would be necessary if you are going to have a meaningful study under option 2.

So what I am asking members of the committee to do is to say to the public, who have spent a lot of their personal money raised from ordinary people lobbying in favour of Bill 67, Bill 190 and Bill 129: “Yes, we are going to give you an opportunity to come before a committee of the Legislature. We are going to deal with them. It is only going to take five weeks.” Because of our agenda, we do not have an opportunity to go around the province, but we are at least going to hear in Toronto and have two days of hearings on two of the bills and, I guess, one day on Bill 67.

Say to these people then: “Your efforts are not in vain. We do not know whether we are going to vote for or against the bill, but at least we are going to give you an opportunity to democratically come forward and make your views known. We are not going to stifle your right to tell your electors how you feel about these bills.”

If you do not give them that opportunity, while at the same time preparing for option 2, which is only five weeks away and would give you an opportunity to have the research in place and do a more meaningful examination under option 2, then I say not only is your decision contemptuous of the process that we have, the parliamentary process that we have established, but more particularly, I think it is an awful insult to the people, some of whom are sitting here in the gallery, who have put so much time, personal interest and indeed some of their own money to promote and to lobby and to educate the public about their concerns.

**Mr Wiseman:** I would like to go along with my colleagues on option 1. I cannot, for the life of me, believe that the government would use its large majority to vote against these three bills coming forward. I hope they would not when you call for a vote, if you do that this afternoon. As was said before, what else can you say but to repeat some of what has already been said, in that some of these bills have been around for a couple of years and they should be aired. We have time to do the government's second option, I am sure, unless the government refers something out to us, some bill that takes priority over these.

I would just ask the members of the government—and maybe we will hear from Mr Dietsch—to be open-minded on this and give the three members who brought these bills forward a chance to have them aired and to get them over with. Hopefully, we can get on to their option 2 in this sitting of the Legislature, because if what we are hearing rumours of is true, we may not be back until after another election, after this summer with some of the things the government seems to be doing out there. Goodness knows when these bills or others would be heard.

I would just ask the members of the government to think very carefully if this process is going to work. It has worked, I think, pretty well up to this point in time. They should support option 1, with an idea of bringing on option 2 at a later date.

**Mr Dietsch:** I find the debate interesting, to say the least. As a person who just came to the Ontario Legislature in 1987, and recognizing some substantial background in municipal politics, when we sit in this room and talk about process, it intrigues me, because I have had many constituents who I represent talk to me about process in the Legislature and the meaningful kinds of things that happen in the Legislature with respect to process.

I have a hard time justifying the kind of process which is going on on the screen right now in terms of explaining to people the kinds of things such as: “Yes, the Legislature does deal with business. There is debate on issues, but meaningful debate.” They point out to me, “Yes, Mr Dietsch, meaningful debate, but....”

Mr Kormos, for example, has been on his feet for a few days now. He has repeated himself several times. Then as we go through that process, it is interesting that the constituents who I represent point out to me: “Mr Dietsch, how does that get to be meaningful debate? How do we go through and recognize that these things are meaningful?” We talk about meaningful debate and they point out to me—and these individuals who I represent watch the parliamentary channel—“Private members' bills are an important part of the Legislature, are they not?”

I say: “Yes, they are. Yes, some of them get to be made into legislation. For example, the private members' bill that I put through got put into legislation with, quite frankly, not a great deal of assistance from the members opposite. They spoke against and voted against it. However, recognizing that the common sense of the Legislature does prevail, the private members' bill has now been enacted and, in fact, is in place.

There is private members' legislation, reading of bills for a couple of days in the Legislature and voting against the bill that they introduced to create a ringing of the bells to bring people back into the Legislature to vote. They say: “Mr Dietsch, how can that be part of process? Why did they vote against the bill when they stood up and created a bell-ringing, and then vote in favour of it?” These are very difficult situations of trying to explain process to people who are watching.

1620

Recognizing private members' legislation as being as important as it is, I know I have a very difficult time explaining that to individuals. Then we come into committee meetings like today's meeting and we talk about process, and there has been no discussion relative to Liberal members of this committee voting against these pieces of legislation. In fact, what we are talking about is ordering the business of the day.

We have a subcommittee meeting. Then, sure and by golly, do we not realize that process says that out of this subcommittee meeting we now have advertisements in the Toronto Sun and the Toronto Star saying, “Phone all the Liberal members on the committee and the Premier.” I have never seen that as part of process, and I talked to some of my colleagues who have been here much longer than I with regards to process and they said, “Well, that is news to me.”

**Mr Mackenzie:** Glasnost is tough.

**Mr Dietsch:** Not all the members on the committee are listed; only the Liberal members on the committee are listed. I do not understand that, because not all the subcommittee members were there, so not all the subcommittee members could have understood what happened in that subcommittee meeting. Yet from the process viewpoint, we go through the expense of—I assume it is the Toronto Humane Society and Zoocheck



who go through the process of advertising—it was a fairly costly advertisement, I would think—to get members to phone the Liberal members of the resources development committee. I guess that is part of process, and that is part of the process that we are involved in today.

**Mr Wildman:** With respect, Mr Chair, most of this is irrelevant.

**Mr Dietsch:** Really, we are talking about the process, and albeit that it is important that the pieces of legislation that were put forward through private members' hour—I supported some of those pieces of legislation and, quite frankly, I think they are very serious pieces of legislation.

At this point in time, option 2 happens to be my preference to deal with. That does not mean to take away the support for those kinds of very important aspects that are in the other pieces of legislation in private members' hour. I think it is notable that Mr Philip comes to this committee today to ask us to deal with it. Mr Wildman, of course, who is a member of the committee, would have been here in any event, but Mr Pollock, unfortunately, was not able to be with us. I think it is commendable for the interest taken in their private members' legislation. There is no question about that.

I would expect that some of these things may come before us in the very near future. Perhaps if we can finish option 2 early enough, there would be time for them to come before us. I do not know that. Certainly, if we get into long debates, like what is going on on the screen right now, it would be rather difficult to get into those kind of things.

None the less, it is interesting that constituents who I represent have had an opportunity to watch the parliamentary channel, watch and look at what seems to be an opportunity to twist a process to the order of the day.

**Mrs Marland:** Excuse me. I guess there is no requirement when a member speaks to tell us what he thinks about the motion on the floor, because I do not know what Mr Dietsch—

**The Chair:** There is no requirement, no.

**Mrs Marland:** There is no requirement.

**Mr Mackenzie:** I was trying to restrain myself with some difficulty, listening to what was pouring out of Mr Dietsch. Let me go back to the process a bit, because I do not know what the fight that is going on over auto insurance has to do with what is before this committee in any way, shape or form whatsoever. I think it would be useful to outline exactly what has happened.

The steering committee is charged with the responsibility of an important committee like the standing committee on resources development. I am not sure how long any of the committees are going to be of any importance, given the procedures and the process we are going through, but the steering committee, which has one member from each party, met to take a look at the business that would be before the committee and what major issues we might want to undertake inasmuch as we have no government business before us. There was a feeling that we probably would have government bills referred to this committee, but as yet we do not know what they are and when and even if for sure they will be referred. The staff prepared for us a résumé of issues, not exclusive, that we might want to deal with and private members' bills that had been referred to the committee.

That résumé covered: (1) preservation of Ontario food land; (2) is there a provincial role for passenger rail transportation; (3) workplace illiteracy, as they put it; (4) review of the

Workers' Compensation Board annual report, which this committee has had before it for a number of years; and (5) industrial strategy. Then, in addition to those rather weighty items, I think, all of them, it had referred to the committee by the House the following private members' public bills: Bill 67 and an explanation; Bill 129 and an explanation; and Bill 190 and an explanation.

I will not speak for any of the other members on the steering committee. In the course of the discussion there were a number of the issues—probably, for me, industrial strategy—that would have been of some importance, given the free trade agreement and everything else that we are going to deal with in one of these weighty topics.

At the first meeting of the committee, I should say that two were added to the list there. These were not exclusive. The Conservatives added the problem of zebra mussels, which one of their members is exceedingly worried about, and the Conservatives, I think it was Margaret Marland, also added sustainable development, which could cover a number of things in the conservation field—industrial, farm land, you name it—both of them probably very interesting and good topics.

There was no agreement at that meeting on which, if any, of these items would be the focal point of this committee or whether indeed there should be others produced. There was a general agreement not voted on at that first meeting that it was only fair that we deal with three bills which had been before this committee for better than, in some cases, or almost as long as two years. The time frame was investigated and we found that we could do it by literally the middle of May or a little later than that in May, scheduling the time that the authors of the bills themselves thought was necessary.

We then took that back to our caucuses. There was no problem with our caucus. I have no idea what went on with the Conservative caucus, but I take it there was no problem in their caucus.

I think, in direct response to Mr Dietsch, it should be clearly understood that when we came back to the second committee steering meeting, obviously the deal on the three bills was off. Mr Dietsch told us bluntly that what he wanted to deal with was workplace literacy.

**Mr Dietsch:** There was no deal.

**Mr Mackenzie:** There was a general understanding that even you did not oppose. As I said, I did not say it was voted on, and let's make that clear, Mr Chairman.

**Mr Dietsch:** Mr Chairman, there was no deal.

**The Chair:** Order, please.

**Mr Mackenzie:** You had your chance, Mike.

**The Chair:** Let Mr Mackenzie finish.

1630

**Mr Mackenzie:** The facts are that it was clear we would not be proceeding with these three bills. So you talk about ordering or using the procedures of the House or the process. That was very clear. The chairman of the committee—and I am sorry, I do not normally do this—said to Mr Dietsch, "Are you then telling us that what your members are going to vote for is not to proceed with these three bills, but to proceed with the workplace literacy deal?" And at that steering committee meeting Mr Dietsch said yes, very clearly. It was obvious the marching orders were already down, and that is when I went back to my caucus and reported it to the people we had already told

were going to get their bills presented they are now not going to get them.

That is certainly what transpired at the steering committee meeting of this resources development committee. So we had it clearly laid out to us that what was going to happen was the issue of workplace literacy, which none of us, I think, really opposes. As a matter of fact, if this move has been made because they do not want three bills, two of which at least are slightly controversial, before them or to have to handle in a short period before an election, they may have made a mistake in terms of the workplace literacy issue, because I can tell you there are people waiting for that issue. But we could have dealt with that issue following getting rid of these three bills, which people have been waiting one hell of a long time for.

So I do not know where the relevance was. This also is an opportunity to do something. Mr Dietsch made an argument about delaying and stalling tactics. I have no difficulty with those tactics at all when it is a fundamental bill that this government did not have any mandate for, in terms of the insurance bill. I think we would be remiss in not trying to do what we can to stop that.

But here you have an opportunity to proceed with three bills that people have put a lot of time in, that will not take a lot of time, that can then have the hearings that they are entitled to. The government has still got to make a decision on what it does finally in terms of the third reading in the House, but that is being just done away with, and it is this government, by the words that we got in that steering committee, that, "We're not going to proceed with this, we're going to deal with workplace literacy"—He is shaking his head. I hope that there is a change of heart on this deal. We will not know, I guess, until the vote. I will be the most surprised person in this room if there is, but I will be very happy if there is a change on the vote.

Certainly I give my support to my colleague's motion that we deal with these three private members' bills, which still leaves us plenty of time to get into workplace literacy before the end of May, I might say. I do not think anybody should be fooled by comments about the process or talking about the process or misusing it. If there has been a misuse of the process, it is in exactly what came back to this committee from the government member on that steering committee.

**Mr Fleet:** I must say that I suspect rather strongly that a large number of people would remark that the pleas for non-partisanship in the committee have come from the most unlikely sources today.

**Mr Mackenzie:** That's what a majority does—the arrogance of a majority.

**Mr Wildman:** Who are you talking about, Dave?

**Mr Fleet:** That having been said, I would like to deal with the whole question of process that has been stressed by a number of people.

**The Chair:** He does not have to name Mr Philip.

**Mr Wildman:** I have always considered Margaret Marland most stateswomanly.

**Mr Fleet:** The thing that perhaps has amazed me the most in terms of the process has been a combination of two elements. One is the absence of a discussion about something which occupied this committee most fully in the fall, in Temagami. Mr Wildman brought forward a matter under the new rules—I believe we were the first committee to deal with it—that dealt with a private member's issue. It was certainly not an issue of

the government's choosing, although I personally was very pleased to deal with it, and in fact I think we would still be dealing with it had it been up to the committee to allot ourselves time for that issue. The rules prevented that, but we spent a very extensive period of time reviewing the issue of Temagami. I think that is one indication, because this was a point brought up by a number of the opposition members, in terms of respect for the process.

Related to that is the reality that when these bills—I cannot speak off the top of my head for Bill 67, but I remember clearly the other two bills, Bill 129 and Bill 190. I know that our caucus split and I believe on at least one bill the Conservative caucus split, so these were not bills that were killed in private members' hour and there was clearly a respect for process and people voted however they thought best at the time.

On a personal note, I note with respect to Bill 190, the time limits being what they are in private members' hour, I did not have the opportunity to speak to that. I did vote against Bill 190, and I had a number of concerns. I was persuaded. I did not come in with some irreversible point of view on either of Bill 190 or Bill 129, but I had a number of concerns that were strengthened by the kinds of representations that were made, and lo and behold, we now have amendments being proposed, which leads me to feel even more confident that the kinds of concerns I had were well founded.

But I do not want to get too heavily into each of the bills, because I accept the view that has been offered, actually I think by everybody who has spoken, that there are many weighty matters. Mr Mackenzie gave us an extensive list of other things, and I think we would all agree that they are important.

I must say I cannot really take my eye off option 2. It is something that I have had some involvement with in my riding, and I must tell you, and I think it would be of some value to the members of the committee, I will never forget the day that I went into a factory in my riding to visit a class of workplace literacy, and as I shook hands with all of the workers who were learning more about English, I shook hands with one gentleman. I was looking him straight in the eye as I shook hands, and I had to be careful not to react in a negative way when I shook hands, because I realized he had no fingers.

He has been working in that factory for, as I recall, some 30 years, and I suspect that is where he may have lost those fingers. This is somebody who had been working there that long, and obviously a man who was prepared to work hard and obviously had had a difficult time earlier in his life to have lost his fingers, and there he was learning English so that he could help operate the computer that the employer was going to bring in.

The employer's incentive was that he had to make sure his workers could use those machines in a proper way, that they could count properly, that they could read English. In fact, that place of employment has signs up in numerous languages to deal with the diverse workplace and the kinds of people who work there.

I do not think it does us much good to hear that if I happen to vote against what the opposition is proposing, I am somehow abusive of the process, which has been the suggestion in at least some of the comments that were made today. I will tell you that workplace literacy is of critical importance. The report that we have here from the legislative research service suggests that 16 per cent of Ontario adults are functionally illiterate. I suspect it is a significantly higher percentage in my riding and in other urban centres, and I consider that a very serious matter.



The political reality—not political by virtue of what we have chosen here in Ontario to deal with, but as determined by the United Nations—is that this is the year of literacy. If we are going to have an impact on a number of solutions—I am not just talking about the bills that are before us, and I take them at face value in terms of being important. I accept that, but if we are going to look at that range of issues, surely to be able to focus on the question of literacy at this time is a logical thing to do, and it would assist people in a very material way.

If you want to get down to some of the technicalities of things, and there were a number of somewhat technical arguments advanced, there is a phrase that lawyers are familiar with about people coming to court with clean hands, not in the literal sense of having dirty hands, but in the sense that if you are going to come forward with sort of procedural, pristine arguments for justice, you had better make sure you have proceeded there in that fashion.

I understand that the original concept for private bills meant that they would not be matters calling for public expenditures, which is a government responsibility, and that is a practice which, as I understand it, is basically simply overlooked in private members' hours. We allow members to bring forward issues in a variety of ways, but it would be naïve, to say the least, to say that the private members' hour is used in a totally non-partisan way. It clearly is not, and clearly Mr Mackenzie related his reasons why he chose, as is his legal right, to inform other groups, and the ad has been referred to, and the groups chose to publicize it in that way. But that is not coming to me, as a member—

**Mr Mackenzie:** I did not inform any groups, just so the record is straight, other than my own caucus.

**Mr Fleet:** Somehow the members discussed it and the matter got out, and that is fine. I have no problem with that.

Interjections.

**The Chair:** Order, please.

**Mr Philip:** Point of order.

**Mr Wildman:** It was not confidential information.

**Mr Fleet:** I am not suggesting it was, Mr Wildman. My point—

**The Chair:** Order, please. There is a point of order from Mr Philip.

1640

**Mr Philip:** Mr Fleet is making accusations indiscriminately against all members of this committee. It is common practice for groups, knowing that legislation is coming before a committee, to lobby committee members. It is common knowledge that some Liberal members voted against some of these bills, so there is absolutely nothing that one would suspect would be untoward if some group then had put an ad in the paper.

**The Chair:** Order, please. Mr Philip, I am going to have to rule you out of order. That is not a point of order, clearly. Carry on, Mr Fleet.

**Mr Philip:** Since—

**The Chair:** You may not like it, but he is not out of order.

**Mr Fleet:** My point is—

**Mr Mackenzie:** Mr Chairman, I think it was directed at me that I had gone out and told groups. I wanted the record clear on that.

**Mr Fleet:** I accept what you are saying, Mr Mackenzie.

**Mr Mackenzie:** Other than my colleagues, I had told no one about the discussions, until today, that went on in committee.

**Mr Fleet:** I quite accept you at your word, I have no problem with that, but my point is that word came out, in whatever fashion—

**Mr Mackenzie:** Well, do not blame me.

**Mr Fleet:** —and presumably the members of the Toronto Humane Society and Zoocheck Canada felt it would be advantageous to them to place the ad, and that is fine. I have no problem with them doing that; they are advocates for a point of view. I understand that. But it is fair to say that it is not common to see it done in this particular fashion, and I must say that, in my view, it is not the most effective use of resources, but that is up to them to make the judgement.

I want to look a little, just very briefly, to the substance of these various bills. It was not suggested what order they would come in. I personally would be inclined to the view that the order in which they were referred might be a way to deal with them, were we to reach them at some point down the line. That is just a personal comment.

But the question of harm to animals I think is a serious one, and I commend both Mr Wildman and Mr Philip, because they have pursued this for some time. I had some difficulties with some of the technical things, in particular with Mr Wildman's bill. He is nodding his head. He has heard these arguments; they were presented in private members' hours.

With respect to Mr Philip's bill, I have read through the bill, and he is aware of my interest in regulatory matters and I am aware of his. It is a bill, as far as I can determine, as far as I can understand, and I have given it some thought, where the regulations may be of greater impact on how things operate than the bill itself. That is not an unheard of situation.

I understand as well that that is still under review by the government, that there is an interministerial committee dealing with it. It is not a question that if it is not dealt with in this immediate two- or three-month period, somehow the bill ceases to exist or ceases to have importance or that the government is abandoning any interest in or obligation to deal with the issue.

I appreciate where he is coming from. I know he wants his bill to come forward at this time, but my understanding is that some of the concerns raised by Mr Kanter at the time of the private members' bill still remain, in terms of fracturing responsibility and whether the bill selects the most appropriate ministry to deal with that thing. Simply, the scope of the regulations would be considerable. So it is not just a matter of saying, "Gee, let's proceed with it," and there is no other downside at all. I do think there are other considerations.

There are other comments I could make to the content, but since the motion has been advanced primarily on the basis of procedural matters, I will confine myself pretty much to those kinds of considerations.

I take seriously the views that are held by the members opposite. I think I am known within my own caucus as being an advocate of having more powers for private members, and I wish we were in a situation like in England with the way confidence is dealt with. The reality is, though, we are not yet there, and I do not see, although this has been alluded to by



other members, that the way that we deal with these particular three bills with this particular motion is somehow representative of how all private members' bills are going to be dealt with.

I must say, as a backbench government member, I have got four private bills myself and I would have thought that the members opposite who have had the opportunity to have them debated in the House would have some sense of that being a benefit that not all other members get. I not only have not had one reached, I am probably not going to get one reached, because the way the lottery system works is essentially one that does not help us when you are number 70- or 80-something in the list. In the first draw I was in that position and in the second draw I am in that position and I have got private members' bills that I would love to have debated at second reading and would love to have the government either move on or adopt in some form, just as others members have that. That does not mean that those things are not of value, yet I have not seen that the private members' bills from government members are somehow given a *carte blanche* preference in the way they have been dealt with.

To put it another way, I am at least as prejudiced as you have been, and more, and I say that because you speak to this issue of abuse of process. I do not believe that there has been that in the sense that seemed to be advocated. I understand the advocacy and I can appreciate why you want to advance the things you have.

I will not touch particularly on Mr Pollock's bill, since he is not here, but I can appreciate where he is coming from on that, and that has been waiting the longest of the three that have been referred.

**Mr Wildman:** I always find Mr Fleet's contributions interesting, if not informative. If I were to be partisan, I might ask him if the pickets on that fence are uncomfortable, but then again I will not ask that question.

**Mr Fleet:** Go ahead and ask. I do not mind responding.

**Mr Wildman:** I just want to say a couple of things in response to what he has put forward.

First, his argument about expenditure of public funds for private members' bills is an interesting one, but not one that is particularly relevant here because the Speaker has the right and the duty to rule on whether or not bills, when they are presented in the House, are in order. We are far along in the process on all three of these bills. They were not only ruled in order at first reading, they were carried at first reading and accepted by the Speaker and by the assembly, and they were debated at second reading and passed at second reading.

Mr Pollock's motion, I think, was unanimously accepted by the Legislative Assembly. If you want to stretch it far enough, almost any bill that puts forward new regulations will require the expenditure of some funds, which would make it very difficult for most private members' bills even to see the light of day. The fact is the Speaker has the responsibility for determining whether or not a bill is in order, so that argument does not have any relevance, in my view, with regard to these three pieces of legislation that are at committee stage and have already passed second reading.

I would say that I think clearly all these three pieces of legislation fit the traditional criteria for private members' legislation in that they are non-partisan. They are non-partisan in the sense that not one of the three political parties in the House has a policy with regard to any of these topics. Mr Pollock's deals with a particular problem in his part of Ontario and he is an advocate for it. The bills presented by my colleague and myself

have support from people in all three political parties. They also have people who cross party lines who are opposed.

They are not matters of government policy or even political party policy. They are matters that have considerable interest in the public on both sides. I pointed out earlier, in regard to my bill, there has been one of the largest petitions circulated in Ontario asking for the bill to be proceeded with. I am sure that large numbers of that group of 75,000 were Conservatives and Liberals, as well as New Democrats, and many of them, I suspect, do not adhere to any one of the three political parties. So I do not think it could be argued that these are partisan.

Mr Dietsch also said that we should come to the committee with clean hands.

**Mr Fleet:** Actually, I said that.

**Mr Wildman:** I am sorry, Mr Fleet said that we should come to the committee with clean hands.

**Mrs Marland:** With what?

**Mr Wildman:** Clean hands. I am not sure exactly what he meant by that.

**Mr Fleet:** I could go over it again if you want to hear it again.

1650

**Mr Wildman:** I suspect that he himself was talking about clean hands in the way that Pontius Pilate talked about clean hands. He seems to be washing his hands of this legislation, at least.

He also said that he did not think government backbench members get their bills dealt with any better than others and he was concerned about the lottery. We are all subject to the lottery. I have a number of other bills before the House besides Bill 190 that have not been dealt with at second reading because of the lottery. I chose, when I did have a chance to get on, to proceed with Bill 190 because of all of the bills—I think most of them are important—I felt Bill 190 had the widest interest in the public and that is why I proceeded with it.

We did have the example last week of an all-party agreement to proceed with the backbench members' bill and have it go to third reading. I think that was an indication of the co-operation that people are prepared to proceed with. Mr Dietsch complained that some members on this committee spoke in opposition to his own personal private members' bill which passed. It is private members' legislation. We all have the right to take a position, and the point today is that we are not asking the members of this—

**Mr Dietsch:** That is right. My constituents complained about it, not me. I understand the process.

**Mr Wildman:** We are not asking today. If Mr Dietsch understands the process, then he will understand that what we are asking today is not to express an opinion for or against any one of these three bills, but rather to say: "Yes, we can deal with them. Yes, you can proceed with them." They will not sit here for ever until we have an election and then they disappear and all the work that has gone into them means nothing because that is what will happen.

If we have an election, these bills are no longer on the order paper. They are only on the order paper now because there was an all-party agreement that they be carried over. If we have an election, then we are going to have to start with introducing them at first reading again, if the lottery proceeds, if members who have introduced these bills are returned and they proceed

with them and they go to second reading and if they pass again, at second reading. Then, if we have the same government, I suspect that that government—it may be changed, I hope it is changed—but if that government is in power, then it will not even allow them to come to committee. If it proceeds the way it has been proceeding on other bills, it will require them to go to committee of the whole House, in which case they cannot be scheduled unless the government House leader agrees. So far, none of them have been scheduled. So we will be even in worse shape than we are in now. At least it is before the committee. At least all three of these bills are before the committee, and the government cannot change that, as much as it might like to.

Mr Fleet pointed out that we have dealt with other things besides government legislation; we dealt with Temagami. Yes, I agree and he made a very important contribution during that debate and it was a useful testing of that new rule. Frankly, I do not think that I personally would use that rule for such a topic again because, as Mr Fleet indicated, it was too wide a topic, too complex to deal with in 12 hours.

I got the implication from what Mr Fleet was saying—and maybe I was wrong about what he meant—that if we, as private members, wanted our private members' bills dealt with, we should use that process. If that is what we are supposed to be doing then what you are suggesting is the only way we are going to get our private members' bills before this committee; if we can persuade our individual caucuses that this particular bill should proceed as part of—I cannot remember the number of the rule, but what is it, 134 or whatever it is—123, because I think that is an inappropriate use of that rule.

Mr Fleet also indicated that perhaps his opposition on the mechanics of Bill 190 was confirmed by the fact that I had moved amendments—or I had not moved amendments, but I am prepared to move amendments.

Interjection.

**Mr Wildman:** Surely that was what the public hearings were for. I am not closed-minded on this. We had people come before the committee who were concerned about the bill, who were from the research community. We had some comments from people on the committee about concerns, about the agricultural community. So I said, "Okay, if those concerns are there I must respond to them." That is why I proposed amendments in the same way the government proposes amendments to its legislation, if it hears objections before the committee. I would have hoped that we would have been able to schedule a hearing on the bill so that we could have the amendments before the people came to give their presentations this time around, rather than waiting until after, as the government always does, so that they could have expressed views on the amendments and said: "These amendments respond to our concerns or no, they don't. They are not good enough, you have to improve it more."

Finally, there are two comments I want to make. One, I do not think it is either/or on workplace literacy or these bills, which Mr Fleet seemed to put forward. It is not either/or, we have lots of time between now and the end of June. Workplace literacy is important; I do not debate that. It is very important and particularly in my part of the province. It is important right across Ontario and not just in the immigrant community, but certainly in areas where primary industry is very important. I do not think it is either/or; we can do both.

In regard to the process of the subcommittee, I will make it quite clear what happened. I was informed by my member on the subcommittee, Bob Mackenzie, after the first meeting, that

it looked like we would be dealing with the three private members' bills. He said it was not finalized; there was no final agreement, but it looked like the subcommittee would recommend that we deal with the three private members' bills.

Obviously, I have had a lot of correspondence and people interested in this legislation, so when I heard that, I contacted the people who had been organizing the petition and said: "It is not final yet, but it looks like we might be able to get the private member's bill before the committee for hearings and clause-by-clause. I will let you know when the final decision is made."

Then last week, after the second subcommittee meeting, the steering committee meeting, Bob Mackenzie indicated to me, "Now it looks like the Liberals want to deal with workplace literacy and are going to oppose any motion to deal with the private members' bills."

Obviously, since I had raised the expectations of those who are interested in Bill 190, I thought I should let them know that. I called them and I said: "We do not know yet. We won't know until the committee sits and a vote is taken, but it looks like it might not pass. We might not deal with private members' bills." They took it upon themselves—and frankly, I think, more power to them—they took it upon themselves to contact members and also to contact people who had indicated support for this legislation and to try and encourage them to contact members. If they used the public media to do that, well, that is up to them.

There was nothing confidential about the subcommittee meetings. I was not giving out any information that was not—I was certainly not told by Bob that whatever Mr Dietsch said in the subcommittee was given to him in confidence, and if I betrayed a confidence that was certainly not intended. I believe that the discussion of what the committee would be doing, since it is a procedural matter, not a substantive matter, has to go back to the caucuses. It has to be discussed by individual members on the committee and by caucus members on the committee and by caucus members, and it is certainly not confidential. I make no apologies for letting the people know who have been waiting for a long time for these matters to come before the committee.

I have been lobbied by many many people on both sides of this issue and there is a great deal of public interest in my legislation, as I know there is in the other two bills. I think that—I am not being partisan and arguing that we should be dealing with them. I do not make any apologies for being a partisan politician, but this is not one of those occasions in which I am being partisan.

I just hope that—I am not viewing this as a *fait accompli*. I suppose the longer we talk, the more likely it is. I do not. I am really appealing to the Liberal members and to the Conservative members and my colleague Mr Mackenzie from the New Democrats, to vote for this motion so that we can then deal with these three bills. I would agree that they should be dealt with in the order in which they were referred to the committee, which would mean Mr Pollock's would come first. Then we can move from there to working on workplace literacy as proposed by the Liberals. I think we can do both. It is not either/or. Let us show that the private members' process can be advanced, that passing second reading is not the first step to limbo, but rather the first step to having a bill passed in the law.

1700

**Mrs Marland:** It is really interesting to listen to the comments. Up to now we have only heard from two government members. That is probably singularly significant in itself, that those members over there are not entering into this discussion



this afternoon, probably because, as someone said a few minutes ago, they have got their marching orders anyway. Now, when Mr Dietsch refers to what is going on in the House at this moment, suggesting that it is an abuse of the process, at least what is going on in the House right now is an honest debate on a government bill. What we are dealing with—

**Interjection:** In committee.

**Mr Miller:** Margaret, let's have a little common sense here.

**Interjection:** I never heard that—

**The Chair:** Order, please. Let Mrs Marland make her point.

**Mr Dietsch:** It is only dishonest if you do not agree with it, Mike.

**Mrs Marland:** It may be—

**Mr Dietsch:** Mr Chairman, under standing order 23(i)—is the member trying to impute some other kind of motive, that we are not being honest?

**The Chair:** Now, I do not think—order, please.

**Mrs Marland:** If you were not so rude, you would wait until I finished what I was saying, Mr Dietsch, but you do not have that capacity, apparently.

**The Chair:** Mrs Marland was only halfway through her point. Carry on, Mrs Marland.

**Mrs Marland:** I did not interrupt you when you were speaking.

Interjections.

**The Chair:** Order, please. Mr Dietsch, a point of order.

**Mr Dietsch:** My comments, previously, were based on a point of order under 23(i) in relationship to the standing orders of this Legislature which I understand this committee functions under as well. The point is that the member was impugning some honest remarks from this side of this committee meeting. Mr Chairman, I would like you to rule under that standing committee, please.

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch, I was listening to Ms Marland and I must say I fail to detect that she was imputing motives to members of the committee. I simply did not get that out of her remarks so I will rule that she did not impute motives and should continue.

**Mrs Marland:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I suppose that I should be flattered by the umbrage with which Mr Dietsch is taking my comments. It must mean that, perhaps, I am hitting home and his sensitivities are such that he cannot refrain from interrupting me, although I did not interrupt him when he was speaking. But I will start again, bearing in mind that Mr Dietsch refers to my comments as twisting and shouting. If I were being as ridiculous as he was in this debate this afternoon I might say to him that he is impugning my motives by suggesting that I am twisting something. However, I cannot be bothered with kindergarten debate with someone who is in kindergarten.

I will, however, carry on. There was an example used by the member for St Catharines-Brock, which was the debate that is currently going on in the Legislature. What I have started to say was that at least the debate that is going on in the Legislature is honest debate. It is going on, it is honest in the opinion of the

person who is on his feet speaking at this moment. Maybe none of us agrees with him, but he is executing his privileges as a member and it is part of the process and, at least, the debate is going on. The motion that is on the floor in this committee this afternoon is to simply request the same opportunity. We are simply saying we would like to debate those bills, those very serious matters that have been referred to this committee.

However, since it is very apparent, before we vote, that these bills will not be dealt with by this committee, then I have to say that we have a private members' period on Thursday mornings that will have no credibility whatsoever. Those private members, regardless of what party they are, got enough votes to support their private bills which in turn are referred to this committee, and in the case of my colleague Mr Pollock over two years ago; then the bill, obviously, by the choice of this committee is about to die.

There will be no way that any member in a recorded vote this afternoon will be able to say, after he votes against this motion: "Well, I was in favour of those bills. It was just that we had other very important items that had to be dealt with by the committee." I will tell you that there is going to be an accounting for the Liberal members of this committee because I will check who was in the House—did you have a recorded vote?

**Mr Wildman:** Yes.

**Mr Philip:** They all voted against these bills.

**Mrs Marland:** They have all voted against them?

**Mr Philip:** That is right.

**Mrs Marland:** These members who are sitting here?

**Mr Wildman:** That is their privilege. They have a right to do that.

**Mrs Marland:** That is their privilege. If they voted against these bills in the first place, then their continuing to vote against them today is, I suppose, only further emphasis of the fact that they are opposed, which is also their right. But it is very interesting. When Mr Fleet, the member for High Park-Swansea, starts to talk about the merits of option 2 this afternoon, which is the workplace literacy, there is nobody on this side of the room, David, who is arguing against the importance of workplace literacy. I think that—

**Mr Fleet:** So you are telling me you are about to deal with it first.

**Mr Philip:** No.

**Mr Wildman:** Second.

**Mrs Marland:** The fact is that you are making—

**Mr Philip:** We are prepared to have a select committee on it here. Do you want to move that? We will have a real committee on it.

**The Chair:** Order, please. Please let Mrs Marland fully develop her arguments.

**Mrs Marland:** You are making an issue out of the merits of workplace literacy as though we are opposed to that subject. The fact is that we also, all of us this afternoon, have prefaced our comments by saying, "We too recognize the importance of workplace literacy," but let me just tell you where the betrayal of the people in this province is amplified by your government in terms of the subject of workplace literacy.



To sit here and hear—certainly the member for High Park-Swansea is articulate. He talks about how sincere their government is about the concern for workplace literacy. He referred to the fact that 16 per cent of the population is illiterate. When he does that, however, he seems to ignore the fact that if this government were as sincere as the member for High Park-Swansea, it would bring in its own legislation to deal with workplace literacy, and furthermore it would not be disbanding the Ministry of Skills Development.

That is how committed this government is to helping people in the workplace. They are disbanding their Ministry of Skills Development. I would also say that when the member for High Park-Swansea says that in his opinion he does not think it is an effective use of resources for whoever placed the ad in the paper, what choice does the public have, then, to lobby their members?

**Mr Philip:** They knew how you voted.

**Mrs Marland:** I suppose the question is, what would you suggest? They know they are getting down to the point where—

**Mr Fleet:** If you want an answer, I have an answer, but I am not sure whether that is a rhetorical question.

**Mr Philip:** They know the way you voted. Why shouldn't they lobby?

**Mrs Marland:** Ed.

**Mr Philip:** Sorry.

**Mrs Marland:** They are getting down to the point where they recognize how long these bills have sat in a vacuum in terms of the process. The public recognizes what is going on and I think it is insulting the public on another item that is of major concern to far more people than you will realize until the election. You will find out then how many people are concerned about animal welfare and the care of animals for exhibition and entertainment.

1710

**Mr Fleet:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: It is dealing with the motives of a member. The inadvertent, I trust, implication of the comments was that I do not care about the welfare of animals. That is not true.

**The Chair:** That is a very—

**Mr Fleet:** It is at least a point of information.

**The Chair:** It is a point of view more than anything.

**Mrs Marland:** I understand that the member voted against the Act to amend the Animals for Research Act.

**Mr Fleet:** That does not make me opposed to the welfare of animals.

**Mrs Marland:** If they are now about to vote again against Bill 190 and Bill 129, then they are going to be voting against An Act to amend the Animals for Research Act and they are going to be voting against An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition and Entertainment.

If those members are in fact saying today that yes, they are concerned about these two areas, then they would be more than willing at least to have them come before the committee for debate. What we are going to experience, I am anticipating from the comments—I still say we may be wrong and maybe they can vote independently and think individually across the

room—what we are going to find is a further insult to the public.

It is the same sweeping under the rug, and I use an example: Since the member for St Catharines-Brock used the example of the current debate in the House, I will use an example of the inaction of the Liberal government to further the inquiry into the relationship between the development industry and various people like Patti Starr, Tridel and Gordon Ashworth.

The public will only put up with so much and the public will understand, when these members vote against this option this afternoon, very clearly what is going on. They will understand that we have a private members' session as part of our routine proceedings every week, but they will understand that really there is no credibility and that it is just a sham. Even when bills get approved to the point where they are referred to a committee, it has no status and no future unless the government chooses to make it.

The government chooses to insult the public by saying: "Look, we have a tremendous process. Any single member can bring a private member's bill before the Legislature, and if it is supported it gets to go before a committee." Well, whoopee. We have three bills before the committee here, none of which were referred even last year. They were referred the year before and they are still not before the committee, even though the committee has no other legislative business referred to it.

All I can say, again, is that frankly I think it would be a more honest process if members voted against having a private members' session in our weekly routine proceedings, because I think, for all the time and effort and financial investment that a lot of members of the public have put into the research for these bills and the support of them and the publicity of them, we really would be further ahead not to insult the public and play games with them. The public knows what is going on and these Liberal members perhaps do not.

**The Chair:** I still have Mr Philip and Mr Wiseman on the list. I was hoping we could deal with both options today and the budget. I do not want to foreclose debate, but has the committee heard enough? Is there something that Mr Philip and Mr Wiseman want to say that is important to get on the record?

**Mr Wiseman:** I will only take a minute.

**Mr Philip:** I will take one or two minutes.

**The Chair:** Fine, Mr Philip is next.

**Mr Philip:** I recognize that while I am a member of the Legislature, I am also a guest in this committee, so I do not want to take up a lot of your time.

During the debate on this I have listened carefully and I have not heard one argument by the Liberal members as to why these bills cannot be dealt with at this time. What we have is something that is going to take five weeks. What we have then is another proposal that requires some preparation. You do not just start in on a major inquiry without getting research. There is a wealth of literature out there on the topic of literacy that would have to be put together. I have not heard one argument by the Liberals directed to why we cannot take five weeks to deal with bills that have been democratically passed by the Legislature and that have been sitting before this committee for two years.

I recognize that the Liberal members on this committee—we checked the record; I have not personally checked it, but someone who has checked it informs me that every one of the Liberal members voted against these bills.

**Mr Fleet:** You should look again.

**Mr Wildman:** I think they voted for Mr Pollock's bill.

**Mr Philip:** At least they voted against both my bill and Mr Wildman's bill.

**Mr Fleet:** I understand you might want to check Mr Dietsch's record at the very least.

**Mrs Marland:** Four of them were not there when Mr Pollock's bill was—

**Mr Philip:** They have the right to do that, but when they also deny the public the right to appear before a committee and make their views known, then I say that they are being insensitive and indeed are subverting the whole democratic system that has been established. To try on a purely technical reason to argue that they are not really voting against these bills, that they are not really voting against these people who have devoted so much time—

**Mr Fleet:** That was the argument you guys presented.

**Mr Philip:** To try and argue that, that they are not really voting against these people, is sheer sophistry and absolute hypocrisy. I say to you then—

**Mr Fleet:** Check your facts again.

**Mr Philip:** I do have the facts. I have the facts a lot more frequently than you have. I know that you fall in a long line of members from High Park-Swansea; you fall into the exact tradition of the last two members from there.

**The Chair:** Back to the motion before us, Mr Philip.

**Mr Fleet:** I will take it as a compliment, however it may have been intended.

**Mr Mackenzie:** He is referring to Otto Jelinek.

**The Chair:** Order, please. Go ahead, Mr Philip.

**Mr Fleet:** Mr Chairman, you are doing well. Try to keep a straight face.

**Mr Philip:** I have constituents who say: "My goodness, the Liberal government is arrogant. It believes that because it has a large majority it can do anything." This is a good example of the arrogance, then, of the Liberals.

**Mr Fleet:** How did the bills get here then?

**Mr Philip:** You have your marching orders. The whip is here to make sure you follow them. The only point of view that you have, Mr Fleet, is the point of view that the Premier's office and the whip tell you to have. I say to you that if you do not have the backbone to vote according to your conscience, then at least have the process followed out that is in the standing orders. I hope your constituents catch up with you and I hope they find out about it.

Interjections.

**Mr Philip:** I did not convince you because you have been told how to vote.

**The Chair:** Order, please.

**Mr Wiseman:** I will just take a minute, but when you look at Mr Pollock's bill and the fact that it is only recommended there be two days for it, we this afternoon have put in a whole afternoon trying to convince our Liberal colleagues across here

in the government that we should proceed with this, and we could have Mr Pollock's half—

**Mr Wildman:** Right on.

**Mrs Marland:** Good point.

**Mr Wiseman:** We are talking about what the people—

**Mr Dietsch:** Check the Hansard and see who is doing all the talking.

**Mr Wiseman:** Mr Dietsch said earlier when we were watching the television monitor and what was going on in the House, and one thing and another—I think we could all take a lesson around here this afternoon on something similar. As I said earlier in my remarks, I hope the government members will see fit to go ahead with option 1 in this vote. We all agree that we should go on with option 2 later, but we could argue a couple of more days on this and—

**Interjection:** Kill even more time, which is what they want.

**Mr Wiseman:** Kill even more time. If the people of Ontario are going to get their money's worth out of us as legislators, then let's get on with the job. I would encourage everyone to vote for option 1. I am sure you have the support, as I said before, of all of us to get on with option 2. We will get it done before, perhaps, a possible election this fall, and they will not die on the order paper as some of my colleagues have said. Then everyone in the province will know how everyone voted on these particular private member's bills, and we will not make a mockery of private members' hour, as was mentioned here by many. A lot of people out there believe that private members' hour does mean something. I think if we vote against hearing these this time we will be sending a clear signal out to them that it does not mean a hill of beans.

**The Chair:** Is the committee ready for the question on Mr Wildman's motion?

**Mr Wildman:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: In view of the fact that we may be sending an important message to all members of the Legislature and to the public about the private members' process, I am going to request a recorded vote.

**The Chair:** A recorded vote has been requested. The motion of Mr Wildman—this may not be the precise wording, but I think it is close enough—is that the committee proceed with option 1 of the business subcommittee report.

**Mr Wildman:** Yes, my motion just sets out the order as it is set out in option 1 for these bills.

**The Chair:** Is that clear to members of the committee?

1721

The committee divided on Mr Wildman's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

**Ayes—4**

Mackenzie, Marland, Wildman, Wiseman.

**Nays—6**

Dietsch, Fleet, Miller, Riddell, Roberts, Sola.

**The Chair:** Just for those who might not know, Mr Philip cannot be recorded as a vote because he is not a member of the committee.



**Mr Dietsch:** Mr Chairman, I was going to move the next option.

**Mrs Marland:** I have a question.

**The Chair:** Before we move it, a question?

**Mrs Marland:** The question is this: The discussion we had about dealing with the business to come before the House in the first subcommittee addressed the subject of zebra mussels. The reason I want to ask the Chair about this is that zebra mussels, for anyone who knows anything about them, are becoming a tremendously critical problem in the province. My colleague Mr Pollock is the member who has been requesting that the committee deal with the subject of zebra mussels. Would it be possible to add to option 2 the subject of zebra mussels, since now we have no other subject for April, May and June, three months of this committee sitting?

**The Chair:** If I could be of some help, Mrs Marland, when the subcommittee was discussing this—both Mr Dietsch and Mr Mackenzie were there—it was my understanding that we agreed that if we did deal—there was no commitment—with the zebra mussels issue, it would be a summer project for the committee, not between now and the end of June because there was a very strong feeling that the committee would have to do some travelling to look at the zebra mussel issue, where it was a problem and so forth. So I think it would not be appropriate to include it with option 2, when it was clear what option 2 was as put by Mr Dietsch at that subcommittee. I think if you wish to raise it as another matter—

**Mrs Marland:** I could move it after this.

**The Chair:** Yes, but let's deal with option 2.

Mr Dietsch moves that the standing committee on resources development, under standing order 106, deal with the topic of workplace literacy.

**Mrs Marland:** Would you tell me what that standing order is?

**The Chair:** We will get it. Just before we—

**Mr Wildman:** It says, "Only deal with the government matters."

**The Chair:** Before we move to that, could I ask the committee, since we are going to have a debate—

Interjection.

**The Chair:** Order, please. I was attempting to extract from the committee an agreement that if we get into a debate on option 2, the committee leave a few minutes before we adjourn to deal with the budget, so that it can proceed to the Board of Internal Economy. Can we have an agreement that even if we have not completed the debate on option 2, we will take a look at the budget? Is there any problem with that for any members? Okay. Mr Dietsch, do you wish to speak to your motion? Oh, Mrs Marland wanted 106. I will read standing order 106 for her: "Standing committees set out in clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) of standing order 104 shall, in addition to any other powers granted to them, be authorized to study and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, organization or operation of the ministries and offices which are assigned to them from time to time, as well as the agencies, boards and commissions reporting to such ministries and offices."

To put that in lay language, it simply means that standing committees have particular ministries and agencies referred un-

derneath the umbrella of those particular committees and those are the ones that we can discuss. That means, to use the example before us, that workplace literacy would have to be discussed under the aegis of Industry, Trade and Technology rather than Education, because Education is not referred to this committee but Industry, Trade and Technology is. I stand to be corrected by the clerk, but I think that is the way it would have to be interpreted if this committee was to examine workplace literacy.

**Mrs Marland:** And that is 106? You said 104, but—

**The Chair:** No, I was referring back to 104, which simply lays out the standing committees and the policy fields for each one. But 106 is the one that says that you must deal with those organizations that are referred to the committee like ministries or agencies, boards or commissions. Is that clear?

**Mrs Marland:** Yes, thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch, do you wish to speak to your motion?

**Mr Dietsch:** I think the importance of workplace literacy has been stated in the earlier debate. As I understood some of the comments coming from some of the members, albeit that there was a considerable amount of other discussion placed around it, they all indicated that workplace literacy was a very important subject. The researcher has prepared a paper which was circulated. I think it is quite self-explanatory with respect to workplace literacy. I have no further comments at this particular time other than to put the motion.

**The Chair:** All right, we have heard the motion by Mr Dietsch. Does anybody else wish to get into the debate on Mr Dietsch's motion?

**Mr Wildman:** Yes. I have a number of questions with regard to the proposal. We have all agreed that workplace literacy is important, but I wonder if we could have an explanation. Number one: Is this a recommendation of the subcommittee that we deal with it as opposed to the other option? Number two: What is the rationale for dealing with this particular important matter rather than the other important matters that were considered by the subcommittee?

**The Chair:** I am not sure I follow the second question.

In regard to the first question, there was no vote on the subcommittee to recommend either option one or option two. They were both discussed.

**Mr Dietsch:** Mrs Marland was not at the subcommittee meeting, so there was not a vote at the subcommittee level.

**Mr Wildman:** All right, that answers my first question.

My second question is, what is the rationale for dealing with this important matter as opposed to the other important matters that were considered by the subcommittee?

**The Chair:** I cannot answer that question. The people who are proposing this are the ones who should answer that and perhaps they will get into the debate later.

**Mr Wildman:** I just want to make a couple of short comments and I hope that someone will be able to answer them. I suspect that one of the answers is that this year is the International Year of Literacy, which is a legitimate response.

But I am just wondering whether that then still means that this should take precedence over things like sustainable development, industrial strategy, preservation of Ontario food

land at a time when we are seeing an enormous boom in development around Metropolitan Toronto that is eating up all sorts of food land or the role of the provincial government in passenger rail transportation at a time when the federal government is cutting back on Via Rail and we have serious problems with regard to transit in this area. So I would like that explained.

1730

I would also like to ask: What is the time length that is proposed for this consideration? How long will the committee be looking at workplace literacy? What are the provisions for input from the public? What has been suggested there?

Normally, a committee cannot travel when the House is in session, so how are we going to find out what workers and employers and educators and others have to say about this in places like the northwest or eastern Ontario? I am interested in whether those kinds of things could be fleshed out by the people who are proposing that we deal with this now, rather than, if I might suggest, when it might be more appropriate to deal with it, that is, after June when this committee could indeed travel and could hear from people all over the province on this important issue.

**The Chair:** I am sure you would agree, however, that the people who proposed this motion, in this case the government members, should not be the ones who determine who we hear from and where we go.

**Mr Wildman:** Oh, no.

**The Chair:** Let me finish. Therefore, if the committee decides that this is the issue to proceed with next, then the subcommittee of the committee would meet in the normal fashion and determine what the committee should do and report back to the full committee with the recommendations.

**Mr Wildman:** That is obviously why, though, I am raising these questions. I personally think that perhaps the committee should be seized of this topic, but I do not know why it is being proposed that we should be dealing with it first, as opposed to some other topic. I think it would be useful in this International Year of Literacy if this committee actually made a serious effort at looking at this. In my view, that would require travel, and I am suggesting that perhaps we should not be dealing with it first, but rather should be dealing with it in the summer when we can travel.

**The Chair:** My recollection of the steering committee of this committee in our discussion, and I am glad that Mr Dietsch and Mr Mackenzie are both here, was that the other items you mentioned were rejected and that the two options that were to be put to the committee were option one and option two, which you see before us. That does not mean that it is—

**Mr Dietsch:** In fairness, I think the way I view the items was based on not so much in terms of a tone of rejection but in terms of trying to get the issues done that we felt were important and that we could make a meaningful contribution to, which I am sure this committee would hope to do.

**The Chair:** Thank you. We do not want an exchange here.

**Mr Wildman:** Just to finish up, I think that this is a very important issue. It is one that is most appropriate for this committee to deal with, but I have some real concerns that what is being proposed will actually give short shrift to this issue and that we will not be able to hear from all of the people that we

should hear from. Perhaps when we deal with the budget, we will have to deal with that. Maybe we will have to pay for people to be able to come to Toronto to make presentations or offer to do that because we will not be able to travel.

I do not whether the House leaders and the Board of Internal Economy have contemplated that this committee might have to do that, but I think it is unfortunate that this is being proposed now rather than in the summer when we could do a decent job, I think, and make a real contribution to improving literacy in the workplace in Ontario.

**Mrs Marland:** I do not have with me the four subjects that we discussed that might be subjects other than zebra mussels and sustainable development. What were the other two?

**The Chair:** There were more than two. Mr Mackenzie I think has them. Do you want to read them, Mr Mackenzie, just for the committee?

**Mrs Marland:** That is fine. Zebra mussels, preservation of the Ontario food land, whether there is a provincial role for passenger rail transportation, workplace illiteracy, the annual review of the Workers' Compensation Board's annual report, industrial strategy and sustainable development, which I remember we talked about, sustainable development being my recommendation that could relate to the preservation of Ontario food land and integrate with industrial strategy as well.

I just want to be sure that we recognize what it is out of that list that the Liberal government is prioritizing on. Frankly, I think it is pretty significant that the whip for the Liberal government has gone away and his—whoever his bosses are, whether it is the Premier's office, the Premier himself or the caucus as a whole, I do not know how it works for them—but I think it is pretty significant—

**Mr Dietsch:** Perhaps you could explain how it works for you.

**Mrs Marland:** Is it not interesting how the member for St Catharines-Brock cannot bide his time.

Anyway, when you see the list of subjects that we said we would be willing to discuss, the government's priority comes back as workplace literacy for this committee. I think it is very interesting that unlike option one, which had an expected time allocation for those three bills, option two has no time allocation.

You said that the format could be referred to the subcommittee, but the difficulty that I have is that being as important a subject as it is and as we also felt the other subjects were on the list, now this subject is going to deal with for two days a week when the House is sitting.

Perhaps the person moving the motion in reply to my question, so that I do not give up the floor, would like to answer based on his knowledge of what it is that his Liberal government wants. Maybe he could just tell us what they had in mind as to how this committee could deal with such a subject as workplace literacy while the House is sitting.

**The Chair:** Perhaps Mr Dietsch could make a note of that and you could carry on.

**Mrs Marland:** All right, but I ask that question through the Chair.

Unless the mover of the motion has an explanation about how it should be dealt with, frankly I do not see much point in the subcommittee dealing with it. If it is the major choice of the government, then I think we might as well discuss it at this committee. You have already heard from one of the caucuses



that it should be dealt with as the subject in the summer recess and not dealt with in a cursory way when the Legislature is sitting.

I also think that it is probably stretching it to have that particular subject referred to this committee anyway. When we were discussing it in the subcommittee, when I went away from the subcommittee, I thought that because it is workplace literacy it probably should have gone to the standing committee on social development under Education.

There is probably another committee that it could have gone to, by having the special select committee on education deal specifically with workplace literacy. When we talk about education, we are not talking about elementary and secondary schoolchildren. We are talking about education, and literacy is an integral part, hand in hand obviously with education. I do not think that we should have this subject dealt with in a surface, superficial approach under the guise that it comes under a ministry of ours on this committee, namely, Industry, Trade and Technology.

I would prefer to see it dealt with in depth as the major subject that could be dealt with properly under the select committee for education. So I have difficulty with the motion unless the mover can tell me how he sees this committee dealing with it. I have difficulty in supporting a motion that just says that it be examined by this committee without any parameters or guidelines. I hope that the mover of the motion will explain that.

1740

**The Chair:** I have no other speakers who wish to address Mr Dietsch's motion. Is there anyone else? If not, are you ready for the question?

**Mrs Marland:** I did ask a question, through you, to the mover of the motion.

**The Chair:** Yes, you did, but he is not in his chair.

**Mr Wiseman:** He is just finding out about it now, what he is to do.

**The Chair:** But we cannot require an answer and he is not in his place.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Dietsch, were you even listening?

**Mr Dietsch:** I always listen to you, Margaret; I cannot help it.

**Mrs Marland:** Would you like to answer my question, please?

**The Chair:** Did you wish to respond, Mr Dietsch?

**Mr Dietsch:** I am ready for the question.

**Mrs Marland:** Let the record show that the member refuses to answer my questions.

**Mr Wiseman:** He hasn't heard yet.

**The Chair:** Is the committee ready for the question on Mr Dietsch's motion then?

**Mr Wildman:** Would it not be appropriate to move an amendment regarding glasnost?

**Mr Fleet:** I think what you really want is perestroika.

**Interjection:** That would be nice.

**The Chair:** All those in favour of Mr Dietsch's motion please indicate.

All those opposed?

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** Therefore, may I suggest to the committee—

Interjections.

**The Chair:** Order, please. May I suggest to the committee that on—

Interjections.

**The Chair:** I will try once more. On Wednesday, since this has now been determined, the steering committee should be meet to determine how we handle this issue of workplace literacy. Is that agreed by the committee? It is agreed. The steering committee will meet on Wednesday afternoon, which is the regular meeting time of the committee. The rest of you have the afternoon to do other things.

**Mr Mackenzie:** That is following the Liberal caucus meeting, I hope, so he can get his marching orders again.

**The Chair:** Other members can stay in—

**Mr Dietsch:** I think we should have it here in the whole committee meeting. I think that would probably be more appropriate.

**The Chair:** I was going to say that other members could be in the Legislature listening to the member for Welland-Thorold on Wednesday afternoon.

**Mr Dietsch:** I think we should hold it right here, the whole committee.

**The Chair:** Could I ask the members if they have had an opportunity to look at the budget of the committee. Very briefly, we have scheduled eight weeks of hearings. Now this is highly speculative at this point, of course, but that is what we have done. There has been a change in a couple of items, an increase, such as the travel with staff because of the translation and Hansard that the committee must absorb—happily so, of course. That happens with the equipment rental as well as with the travel, the interpretation and transcription services bills as well. This, as I said before, is speculative, but that is what we are laying before the committee.

**Mr Wildman:** Obviously, after the travesty that we have seen today, you are going to have to change the explanatory note appended to the back of the budget.

**The Chair:** Which is what?

**Mr Wildman:** "Proposed and anticipated activities."

**The Chair:** Proposed, anyway. Any questions or comments on the budget?

**Mr Dietsch:** I have a motion. Based on the earlier votes today, I am sure that we can count on the support of the members opposite.

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch moves that the budget, in the amount of \$222,180, be approved and that the Chair be authorized to present the budget to the Board of Internal Economy.

Motion agreed to.

**Mrs Marland:** I move that the subject of zebra mussels be considered by this committee during the summer recess.

**The Chair:** That would be in order. All right, would you like to speak to your motion?

**Mrs Marland:** Very briefly. Obviously the subject of zebra mussels has been under intense scrutiny by the bureaucrats in the government because they recognize the urgency of this problem and how rapidly it is taking over our lakes and waterways. It is no longer just a matter of interference in recreational fishing. It is becoming a very serious problem even to the operation of our hydroelectric generating stations.

**Interjection:** Perhaps even water and sewer pipes.

**Mrs Marland:** And wherever we have water and sewer intake pipes into lakes and waterways. The clogging of those pipes and the expense to remediate the problems, such as deeper and longer pipes underneath the sand, is only one issue in itself, but the overall issue of the damage and how quickly it is happening—we did not know about zebra mussels two years ago—makes it a very significant problem. It can all be tied in to some of the other aspects that we have talked about as needing to be discussed by this committee—namely, even our industrial strategy and sustainable development—because unless what we are doing works, we cannot be looking at other areas to ensure that they also work.

**The Chair:** I am sure members know, just before we proceed with a list I have now, that there is nothing wrong with Mrs Marland's motion. It certainly is in order, but if the Legislature referred another matter to the committee for the summer that would take precedence over this.

**Mrs Marland:** A lack of private members' bills.

**Mr Miller:** It takes a while to get the message through.

**The Chair:** I think that is understood by members, is it not?

**Mr Riddell:** I have no particular objections against this committee meeting on this very important problem, and that is zebra mussels, but it may well be after the fact because governments, both at the provincial and federal levels, are already acting and acting quite vigorously on this matter. An ad hoc committee of the provincial ministries has been established and it has already met. An interministerial committee of parliamentary assistants has been established. I will be chairing that interministerial committee. Within the next week I will be receiving a report of the ad hoc committee and then we will go from there. So I have a feeling that by the time the summer comes around the governments will have the matter well in hand and will be proceeding to do something about the problem.

But as I say, if the committee wants to sit on zebra mussels, it is a very serious matter. There is no question about it. It could well limit water supply; it could well limit food supply from the standpoint of the consumption of fish products. By the time this committee is established to work on zebra mussels, governments will have taken the lead and will certainly be well on

their way to finding a solution to the problem, if indeed one can be found.

**Mr Wiseman:** I am pleased that the federal and provincial governments are moving along here. I think had we listened again to our colleague Jim Pollock about a year and a half ago when he brought this forward, we would have been further advanced. Right now, whether it is true or not, I heard that this year Ontario Hydro is spending something like \$10 million to try to correct the situation as far as its intake for generating electricity and so on are concerned. I have heard of some places along the Great Lakes or the St Lawrence River where it has actually affected the water and sewer intakes and one thing and another.

So it is important. If Jack's committee and the federal committee can find some solution, then so much the better, but if they cannot, then I think we as a committee could go out there and highlight it even further, that it is a really important problem and should be addressed.

**Mr Wildman:** Just very briefly, I would indeed like to see some members of this committee sit on zebra mussels. I will not name which orifices. At any rate, I think it is an important matter and the member has our support. I would like to move the question.

**The Chair:** Mr Wildman would like to move the question. There was one short comment here.

**Miss Roberts:** Just one comment: I have been dealing with the zebra mussel problem for over a year and Mr Pollock came to the issue after I had mentioned it to the government. The government has been working on it, but it is extremely important and even though the government is going to be going around, I think if the members of this committee acquaint themselves about what the problem is, it would be very helpful, even if that is the only thing that they did. There are a number of the people in the Legislature who are not aware of it. It is going to be destroying the spawning beds. It is involved in not only water, sewage and the recreational areas. So I would suggest very clearly that if there is a chance this committee should take part in that.

**The Chair:** The question has been called.

**Mrs Marland:** I would like a recorded vote.

The committee divided on Mrs Marland's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

**Ayes—9**

Dietsch, Fleet, Marland, Miller, Riddell, Roberts, Sola, Wildman, Wiseman.

**Nays—0**

**The Chair:** Thank you to the committee for the approval of the budget. The steering committee will meet on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm in my office, room 347.

The committee adjourned at 1753.



## CONTENTS

Monday 9 April 1990

<b>Organization</b> .....	R-1221
<b>Adjournment</b> .....	R-1236

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**Chair:** Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)

**Vice-Chair:** Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)

Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)

Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)

Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)

Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Riddell, Jack (Huron L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

### Substitutions:

Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L) for Mr Lipsett

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC) for Mr Harris

### Also taking part:

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

**Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn

**Staff:** Luski, Lorraine, Research Officer, Legislative Research Service







## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 34th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 7 May 1990

### Standing Committee on Resources Development

Future Business

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

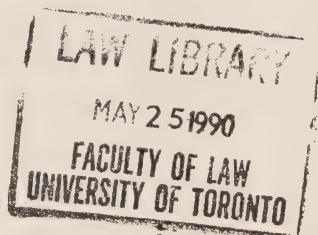
Deuxième session, 34<sup>e</sup> législature

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Le lundi 7 mai 1990

### Comité permanent du développement des ressources

Séances à venir



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Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears at the back, together with a list of committee members and other members taking part.

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La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste des membres du comité et des autres députés ayant participé.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Monday 7 May 1990

The committee met at 1548 in committee room 1.

### FUTURE BUSINESS

**The Chair:** The standing committee on resources development will come to order. Just before we get into the agenda concerning the matter that was raised in the Legislature by the member for Scarborough West, I think it highly unlikely that the Speaker will rule on that. I assume he would simply regard that as a matter for the committee to determine. I could prove to be wrong, but I would be very surprised if the Speaker were to rule on that.

If I could address that briefly, there is no question that the matter of workplace literacy can be dealt with only by this committee if we deal with it under the umbrella of Industry, Trade and Technology; it could not be dealt with under Education, under Skills Development or under Labour. I am sorry, under Labour it could be, but it could not be for Education or Skills Development, because they belong to another committee.

That is why Richard Johnston, the member for Scarborough West, was taking such offence, because he is the critic for this subject matter and felt that we were tramping on turf that belonged to another committee. So if we are to proceed with this subject matter, we must deal with it under the aegis of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. Otherwise I would have to rule it out of order because clearly, in my view, it would be.

That means then that today, before anything is done, we would have to determine what the terms of reference for this study of workplace literacy would encompass. We have to determine its terms of reference; otherwise we would be in danger of straying beyond what it is our right as a committee to study. This would normally be dealt with as a part of a steering committee process, where the steering committee, made up of a member from each party, would determine the terms of reference and the agenda.

We have not been able to have steering committee meetings. I regret that and I urge the committee members who are resisting the steering committee process to think about that, because it makes work on the committee much more efficient and, I think, reasonable. The whole committee is not then tied up in discussing terms of reference, agendas and so forth, and it makes for a much better process.

Also, if I could be so bold, this might offend some people in view of how they feel about it, but I think it means that you work, as a committee, much more readily with a consensus. If a steering committee comes to an agreement, then all three parties are basically committed to that and when the full committee meets, it removes a lot of that potential for the consensus breaking down. So I would urge the committee to think about the fact that we are supposed to meet as a steering committee. We should think about that seriously, because I think it is the way the committee will work best.

Today we should proceed. There is an agenda here, and you will notice the first item on the agenda is to "Define and focus terms of reference regarding the study of workplace literacy." That is number 1, because we simply could not proceed without

making that determination first. So we are open for discussion on that matter.

**Mr Dietsch:** Mr Chairman, as I understand it, there will be from time to time overlap between the different bodies of individuals and ministries that are involved with workplace literacy in relation to the service as it affects the labour force, as it affects, for example, the BEST program—Basic Education for Skills Training—that the Ontario Federation of Labour has developed in terms of its delivery of the service and in terms of the kind of programs that are currently being run under Correctional Services in relationship to some of their kinds of overlap, and they relate to workplace literacy as well.

There is a crossover in some of the areas with regard to Citizenship as well, in reference to the language barrier, whether it be the translation of information that is relative to the kinds of information and right-to-know legislation, the workplace hazardous materials information system, occupational health and safety or the translation of those kinds of documents to other languages.

I am not sure I understand your ruling or your intent of ruling as clearly as I would like to. I would look to you for some explanation in that respect. It was the intent, as I understand it, to talk about the effects on the workplace, but obviously there is some involvement from other areas as well.

**The Chair:** When I made those comments, they were based on the standing orders that govern committees, not a ruling on my part so much. The point I want to make is that I think, if you start talking about the overlap, we are going to have a problem right to start with, because I think the standing orders are clear that if we deal with workplace literacy, when the committee did vote to deal with workplace literacy, then it must be under the aegis of Industry, Trade and Technology.

You cannot get into the overlapping aspect of it or we would be infringing on the other committee or committees. It could the justice committee or it could be the social development committee. So my point is that we must adhere to that, and I think the Speaker will simply say: "Look, you know the standing orders as committee members. Sort it out according to them and deal with the issue if you want. But you must deal with it under the aegis of a ministry that falls under the umbrella of the resources development committee." We have a list of those ministries. I do not have it with me.

**Clerk of the Committee:** I just gave it to you.

**The Chair:** Oh, you have got them there.

**Mr Fleet:** Mr Chairman, I thought it might be useful if I just read what I assume is the standing order you are referring to, which is 106. It indicates that in addition to any other powers granted to the committees, they "be authorized to study and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, organization or operation of the ministries and offices which are assigned to them from time to time, as well as the agencies, boards and commissions reporting to such ministries and offices."

The list that is applicable to this committee is Agriculture and Food, Energy, Environment, Industry, Trade and Technol-

ogy, Labour, Northern Development and Mines, Natural Resources, Tourism and Recreation and Transportation. I take it that is the heart of what you were talking about.

**The Chair:** Yes, exactly. Anything we do must fall under the umbrella of those ministries, and if not a ministry, then a report from the ministry or an agency of those ministries.

**Mr Fleet:** I would like to speak at some point, but I know that both Mr Wildman and I think—

**The Chair:** Mr Wildman and Mrs Marland.

**Mr Wildman:** Actually, I have a couple of questions. First, I should note in regard to the comments of Mr Dietsch referring to Correctional Services and Citizenship as examples, both of those ministries, I am sure we all agree, come under the jurisdiction of other committees, Correctional Services under the justice committee and Citizenship under the social development committee.

If the committee is to proceed and if we are to proceed as you indicated, under the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, could someone point out to me, either in the estimates book or in the report of that ministry, what particular program or branch or agency that reports that ministry we will be dealing with?

**The Chair:** Good question, and that is precisely what number 1 deals with. We would have to come to that agreement before we proceeded with any kind of examination.

**Mr Wildman:** That was my first question. My other question was, if we can identify that, are we then dealing with it on the basis of the report of a particular agency that reports to that ministry or are we dealing with it on the basis of the annual report of the ministry?

**The Chair:** I do not think it has to be either. I think as long as it falls within that ministry or agency, it does not have to be an actual printed report.

**Mr Wildman:** Oh, I see. So the first question then stands: What branch or program of the ministry or what agency that reports to the ministry are we looking at?

**The Chair:** Right. That we must determine, I hope today.

**Mrs Marland:** The agenda that I am looking at says, "Standing committee on resources development," and then it says, "Business subcommittee."

**The Chair:** That is last week's.

**Mrs Marland:** Oh, I am sorry.

**The Chair:** That is okay.

**Mr Wildman:** It is the same, only it has changed the heading.

**The Chair:** It is the full committee.

**Mrs Marland:** Right. Okay. I just want to ask right off the top: You were talking about the importance of the subcommittee system working. I had down in my diary last week and I think the week before—I have forgotten when the dates were—meetings of the subcommittee, and I would like to know why the subcommittee did not meet. I was certainly given notice that those meetings were cancelled. Why are we here today as a full committee?

**The Chair:** We must be quite direct with one another in this process. The Liberal delegate to the steering committee, Mr Dietsch, indicated that he did not want to meet as a steering committee. I know he was not happy with something that had

gone on before, and I did not really want to call the steering committee with only two parties there.

It is possible to do that, but you sure do not build any kind of consensus on the committee by that kind of tactic of calling a meeting with only two parties present, so I cancelled the subcommittee meeting and said we would go with the full committee meeting today.

1600

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chairman, could I, through you, ask Mr Dietsch why he was not willing to meet as a subcommittee?

**Mr Dietsch:** In respect to that, at our last meeting that we had, and we were going over this particular item, there was a considerable amount of dialogue that went on. At the end of that meeting, Mr Chairman, I suggested to you that it should be a full committee meeting based on the comments and concerns that were broached by the members of this particular committee as it went through and it would give everyone, as participants on this committee, an opportunity for their input into the kind of agenda they wished to set.

I did it at the end of that particular meeting and I talked to you personally about it a couple of times in that respect. That is exactly what it was about. It was not to circumvent anything in relation to the subcommittee at all; it was to assure all members of the committee who had expressed a desire for input that that would in fact be the case.

**Mrs Marland:** When you said "at the end of that particular meeting," do you mean the last full committee meeting or the last subcommittee meeting?

**Mr Dietsch:** The last full committee meeting. When we made the decision that we would—

**Mrs Marland:** Because I think the argument that you have given applies to every subject that comes for discussion before this committee and on every agenda, every subject matter that we decide how to deal with. I just want to understand what your position is, if you are the representative of the government on the subcommittee. Are we now going to do everything in this forum and are you going to arbitrarily decide what comes to the whole committee—

**Mr Dietsch:** Not at all.

**Mrs Marland:** —or are we, as opposition members, going to have the—

**Mr Dietsch:** You should be clear about it.

**Mrs Marland:** I have not finished asking you the question, but if you want to answer the question I have not asked, that is fine. Go ahead.

**Mr Dietsch:** I was simply asking the question that you raised earlier. The answer is: Not at all am I looking at not dealing with the subcommittee as it exists. I did explain that to the Chairman when we talked about this particular issue. I felt that this particular subject matter seemed to be one of great concern to all the members of the committee. I felt that it was, in my opinion, worthwhile for all the committee to work towards solving that solution. I have no intention of doing as you suggest in relationship to bringing all items to the full committee. I think the subcommittee generally works well. There are always a few hiccups, as is normally the case in this building.

**The Chair:** Can we move on?



**Mrs Marland:** Okay, I just want to be clear. It is not a matter of doing what I suggest. I am not suggesting that everything come to the full committee; I was just asking Mr Dietsch what he was messing around with the subcommittee process about and what was behind it.

**Mr Dietsch:** I am not messing around with it at all.

**The Chair:** Let Mrs Marland finish.

**Mrs Marland:** For the sake of the member, I just want to remind him that the great deal of discussion at the last full committee meeting was not so much around this subject of workplace literacy but more around the fact that we had two bills referred by the Legislature to this committee which we wanted to deal with. The extent of the discussion at that last full committee meeting was around the fact that the Liberal members of this committee would not support dealing with those bills and therefore those matters which had already been referred to this committee to deal with.

They wanted to pluck something out of the air and put it on the table to discuss it rather than deal with the business of the House, which was and has always been a first priority of any standing committee that I have sat on. The priority has always been to deal with the business of the House.

However, that is another change that has now been made on this standing committee on resources development. We now do not deal with the business of the House that is referred to this committee, because the Liberal government chooses not to. We now deal with another item, and the discussion at the last meeting was on that circumstance. I would suggest. Now the other item which the Liberal members have brought to the committee is workplace literacy, and we can see very clearly that in fact it is not an item that is even in its right form before this committee.

I think that point was well made when the question was asked in the House this afternoon to the Speaker. Frankly, I think we should wait until we have a ruling by the Speaker as to the matter of workplace literacy and which committee it should be in front of, because there is a lot of work to be dealt with in this Legislature by the standing committees. For us to be delving into another committee's jurisdiction and not getting on with two very important bills that have been referred to this committee, in my mind makes a farce of the whole procedure. I, frankly, do not see any purpose in our sitting here this afternoon trying to discuss workplace literacy when we now know it does not directly come under those ministries that are the purview of this committee as per the standing orders. For that reason, I would move the adjournment of this committee this afternoon.

**Mr Fleet:** You are not giving other members an opportunity to even have a view put forward. How democratic.

**The Chair:** Be that as it may, Mrs Marland has moved a legitimate motion of adjournment and it should not be debated. All those in favour of Mrs Marland's motion, please indicate. All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

I have Mr Fleet and Mr Mackenzie. I would hope that we would get as well to item 1.

**Mr Fleet:** Yes, I was hoping to get to that myself.

**The Chair:** Good.

**Mr Fleet:** I have two sets of concerns to put forward, the first one dealing with the matter raised in the House. I was actually in the lobby and I heard some of it on the television and then came into the House when Mr Jackson was raising his point, and I had heard just a little bit of Mr Johnston's point. As

I heard what the Speaker said, it was my impression that in effect he gave a ruling even if he was not calling it that. In effect he said, "It is going to go to this committee for a decision," and he suggested that those two members come here to make their arguments.

Now I appreciate that their point was they had another place to be. I would have thought we would hear those full arguments presented. I am not sure if any of the three members here can make them all. I know that Mrs Marland has a view that the issue of workplace literacy does not fall within the committee, and she in effect adopts the argument that was made today. I would, frankly, like to hear it put in a way that I can really consider it.

That leads to my second point, which is that when I read the standing orders I share some of the concern of the Chair. I agree with your assessment that you have to be able to have something fall within a ministry one way or another. I have a much harder notion understanding that there are somehow compartments, and if you do not fit all of those ministries or some subset of those ministries exclusively, it would seem to be your drift that somehow you are disqualified from dealing with it. It seems to me that that is not the intent of nor any logical application of the standing orders.

It is perhaps typical of this whole place that there is a tendency to pigeonhole things which inherently cannot be pigeonholed. There are always issues that, for whatever reason, ought to be dealt with by a variety of ministries or which are new in arising and have not been dealt with before. I know from my own experience, and when this committee met before I raised some of my personal experiences on this issue. It is something I feel very strongly about. There are both companies and community groups in my riding that deal essentially with adult illiteracy. This is not adult illiteracy; this is workplace literacy and the things that go around with that.

## 1610

I know, from talking with business people as well as workers, that that falls into problems with labour and when we dealt with occupational health and safety that kind of problem came up inferentially a number of times. It comes up in the context of being competitive in a global environment. It surely falls, in my view, as I understand what the ministries do, within Industry, Trade and Technology as well as Labour.

I also understand that the funding for certain kinds of programs comes out of other ministries. There is no point in kidding ourselves. My understanding is that is how it has been done in the past. I do not know how much more is done within Industry, Trade and Technology and Labour for those things. It does not seem logical to me, just because somehow another ministry has some kind of impact on it, that it excludes the jurisdiction of this committee. When public bills come here there is, in effect, no test at all. Public bills come in here and we could end up with absolutely anything, and that in fact routinely happens in order to spread workloads among committees.

**Mr Wildman:** But they are referred by the House.

**Mr Fleet:** They are referred by the Legislature for that purpose. When it is this matter, I realize the standing orders apply and I think it is a reasonable test that we are able to ascertain that something falls clearly within the jurisdiction of at least one of those ministries. I think that is fair game. I am not so sure that this watertight compartment approach—you did not use that language, but that was the inference I drew from it—would really be the most appropriate. It seems to me that

that would be really constricting, not only to this committee, but if applied across the board, you would have some topics you could not cover in any committee.

You would effectively stop all of those kinds of multi-ministerial issues from being dealt with, unless they happened to all fall within all the ministries listed with one committee. As soon as it touched another one, it would be kind of off the table, and that cannot surely be the intent. I would hope, at least, that upon giving it that reflection, you might come to an agreement with that view.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr Fleet. I think your remarks are helpful.

**Mr Mackenzie:** While my colleague wanted the bills that were referred to by my colleague Mrs Marland dealt with first, and thought they could have been done relatively quickly, we had no basic disagreement with the topic of workplace literacy, although I am not sure it would have been my priority, but the committee reached that agreement. I think it is unfortunate that we did not sit down and maybe iron out some of the problems we are realizing we have now in terms of the steering committee meeting a week ago, but that was not to be, for whatever reasons.

I think the problem we have is that we are to some extent usurping an area of jurisdiction where there has been an awful lot of work done in recent times. I am talking about some of the work that is being done in terms of education and training. I know that my colleague Richard Johnston was not aware until relatively recently, within the last two or three days, that this was a topic we had picked up. I know he wants very much to make an argument before this committee, but he is simply not available at this point in time, although he is going to do everything possible to get here at some time.

I would point out to the members of this committee that not only are there other members of this Legislature who have been working in this field for some time, maybe not under this specific topic but certainly allied to it, and have done a lot of work in the education field recently, but they also have referred to their committee the ministries of Education, Skills Development, Colleges and Universities and Citizenship. All I am saying is we can go under the rubric of Industry, Trade and Technology and Labour, breaking new ground, a new committee working on it, but we are going to be extremely restricted in terms of the responsibilities that are referred to various committees.

We are here before this committee now, breaking new ground, where a lot of work has been done by others—and as I said, Mr Johnston wants to make a presentation to this committee about this and feels fairly strongly about it—and we are also in effect, to some extent, handcuffing ourselves.

The financing for this, I suspect—I am not an expert on the rules or the responsibilities of the various committees, but Skills Development is going to be a major part of it and we cannot deal with that. It makes no sense at all to me to have this committee put itself in a position on a topic as important as workplace literacy and have our hands literally tied behind our backs, because we are going to find restrictions in terms of at least four of the key ministries that are very much involved in it.

I have real difficulty with the sense or use or how effective anything we try to do is going to be if we have not sorted this out, including with some of the people who have been involved in this particular field. I really think we are buying ourselves a real mess of trouble if we proceed in this way. I think at least the minimum we have to do is have a talk with or allow some of

the other people who have been working on this general area to make a presentation to this committee. I say that in fairness and very straightforwardly with no ulterior motives.

**Mr Dietsch:** Can I get a clarification? What I am understanding you to say, Bob, is that you want Richard Johnston to be able to make a presentation to the committee on the areas of concern that he has.

**Mr Mackenzie:** I think that is part of it. I think there may be others. I do not know about the chairman of that committee. I think that is certainly part of it. The reason I think it is important is not just because there has been a lot of work in this House done on the whole education field, but because I mentioned the four that I see as key, and including the funding ministries, we are not going to be able to effectively deal with it, and they are part and parcel of this whole area.

We have to put everything we do—I think you can stretch things; I am not one who says you cannot—under the rubric of Labour and Industry, Trade and Technology which basically do not do the funding. What about Skills Development? What about Education? What about Colleges and Universities? What about Citizenship? All of them have a very key role to play in any workplace literacy program, as I understand this.

**Mr Fleet:** Can I just ask a question if it is all right? Bob, there have been a couple of different views expressed about what the committee can do. Is it your view—I do not want to put words in your mouth; I just want to be clear I understand it—that, yes, we can proceed with the topic of workplace literacy as it pertains to a couple of ministries that have not really looked at it before, but in the process of doing that we are not able as a committee to touch on the other ministries?

**Mr Mackenzie:** I will be very frank with you. I am not sure just what all the rules and what is referred to a committee mean, but I do understand generally the rule that was outlined by our chairman here at the beginning. It seems to me that if I pick six key ministries, they would be the six I have mentioned, two of which come under our rubric and four of which do not, which certainly raises some real concerns with me as to how effectively we are going to be able to deal with it.

As I say, I know in this House you can stretch things, but if there are others who are disagreeing and others who are uptight about it now who have the responsibility and have done some work in this area and have a hell of a lot more call, if you like, on the jurisdiction than we do, then I think at least they have to be heard.

**The Chair:** I appreciated Mr Fleet's comments about the airtight kinds of rulings, but for whatever perverse reasons I have spent all my years here in opposition at Queen's Park, and I must say I really am concerned about the critics having an opportunity to have a say in an area where they have responsibility. That is a legitimate responsibility they have around here. If we start getting into the different ministries—Richard Johnston and Cam Jackson are both good examples—that are responsible for a lot of the whole question of literacy, and if they have shown they have some concern about it, when we as a committee deal with that, then we take away from them part of the traditional role they have had, because they have other responsibilities on the other committee, the social development committee in this particular case.

That is part of my concern. That in itself is not in the standing orders. I appreciate that. I am not falling back on that as a standing order, but simply as a concern for the role of opposi-



tion members, and quite frankly with a majority government, it is important to protect those rights.

Interjection.

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch was next.

**Mr Fleet:** I am sorry. I just wanted to respond to that point.

**Mr Dietsch:** I understand your ruling, Mr Chairman, or I think I understand what you are trying to sort out. I guess, as Mr Fleet has indicated, it always creates some difficulties in terms of its appearing to me to be a glitch, you might say, in terms of reference under the new standing orders. I do not know. It begs the question in my mind as to when and where it is possible to fully investigate any particular program that comes under the guise of several ministries. I can see where, as my good friend says, you do it under the ministry responsible.

1620

**Mr Wildman:** Do it under the ministry that funds it.

**Mr Dietsch:** Then I am not sure that it makes for any full delivery of investigation under the purview of those areas under the Labour that fall under this committee, the community groups that carry out some of the programs under this committee, or the OFL which carries out some of the programs under this committee.

I know there are some challenges to be faced. I guess what I see is the possibility of breaking it down in terms of those areas. It is certainly something that I did not particularly feel we were so hamstrung by, but apparently we are. I know that my concern is relative to this being the year declared by the United Nations. I think it is important, especially having just gone through those areas under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the effects of workplace literacy in understanding those areas under the WHMIS program, etc., that we recognize that we have a responsibility to follow up on that quest. If we are limited by the fact that we cannot get into some of those other areas under Skills Development, so be it. But I really think we need to zero in on the BEST program in relationship to OFL's carrying out of the program and some of the community groups, etc.

**Mr Fleet:** Just to touch on a point that was raised by the Chairman, I think there is a bit of a danger in that analysis that is unintentional. I agree with your premise that it is important for critics who are involved in these areas to have an opportunity to deal with them. I take that as one of the important requirements for the committees to operate properly. But it seems to me that argument cuts the other way with at least equal force. For instance, it is difficult for me to imagine that in the standing committee on social development, if they were dealing with this topic, that they are going to be dealing with it fully without talking with labour unions. That falls under Labour. If you reverse the very same argument, you do not need to talk to them because they do not fall within one of the listed ministries to the committee.

**Mr Wildman:** Except they are getting funding from Skills Development.

**Mr Fleet:** In fact, my good friend Mr Wildman would be aware that, for instance, Skills Development has had some programming skipping in and out of its jurisdiction. What happens if the funding skips from Skills Development or Education over to Labour one day? Then what do you do? It seems to me that it is a little bit more complicated than the Chairman laid out. Not that his concern is not correct; I think it is.

But it seems to me that this is something House leaders talked about from time to time, not just with respect to these things, but when they get bills they make decisions about how they arrange it. That is why you get substitutions so freely, to try to accommodate critics, most often, I think, from the opposition point of view, to make sure that they are free, that there are not two bills happening at once so the critics cannot possibly be covering both.

Again, I get the drift of what I call the watertight compartment logic, which I do not warm to, and I would suggest there may be a day not very far in the future when the opposition will want to make the opposite argument. They are going to argue, "Well, let's stretch it." I am more inclined to say that if this committee has any reasonable claim, and I think we have two ministries and it is a reasonable claim, that it is fair game for us to deal with it.

What I would like to do, though, is perhaps suggest, if it is possible—I do not know if this is possible—to arrange for Mr Johnston and perhaps Mr Jackson, since they both spoke in the House, to come back to the committee and make an argument if there is something new to add.

I do not want to do it for the sake of doing it. I was kind of hoping Mrs Marland was going to elaborate on the argument that she adopted with Mr Jackson and it did not happen. Fair enough, she does not have to. But I want to be fair to them to put their case. That is my concern.

**The Chair:** Part of our problem would be resolved if we dealt with item 1 on the agenda. I would ask the members a couple of questions. First, would you like to deal with item 1 before Mr Jackson and Mr Johnston come before the committee, to try to see how that fits in with them or would you rather hear from them first? The second question I had was whether or not you still wish to continue to have the full committee deal with this question. Let's deal with them one at a time.

**Mr Miller:** How did it get on the agenda in the first place? Who made the request? What is the background on that?

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch, as the representative on the steering committee, made that request.

**Mr Miller:** Okay, I think the principle is literacy in the workplace. With the changing technology, I think it is important that we get to the bottom of it. I cannot understand how come Mrs Marland made the motion to adjourn. As a member of the Legislature here, if we are going try to be constructive and leave something behind us—that is really what the bottom line is—we should get on with it. It is going to make it better for the people on whose behalf we are working.

**Mr Wildman:** Just as an aside, I point out that this is 7 May. If on 9 April we had proceeded with those other two bills we might almost be finished them by now. We could then have proceeded with other matters. But that is just an aside.

I would like to hear from the two opposition critics before we proceed, and also I would like to see this subcommittee deal with these matters rather than the whole committee because it tends to prolong things, if nothing else.

**The Chair:** The normal process would be to have the subcommittee deal with that question of the terms of reference, come back to the committee and say, "This is what"—

**Mr Wildman:** And then have the committee accept it or change it or whatever.

**The Chair:** Or amend it; whatever.

**Mr Wildman:** If that is not acceptable, I think my question has to be answered. If it can be answered. Then I think it will enable us as a committee to know what we are doing, what we are about.

I just point out for the aid of those members who have some difficulty understanding the argument Mrs Marland was putting forward, how would this committee feel if the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of Health or one of the critics from the official opposition or the third party of the Ministry of Health were to go before the standing committee on social development and say: "Occupational health and safety is a health matter. Therefore, we as a committee dealing with the Ministry of Health should have jurisdiction and be able to look into that if we feel like it"? How would the parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Labour or the critic from the official opposition for the Ministry of Labour react to that?

Personally, as a long-standing member of the standing committee on resources development, I would be very angry about another committee, for whatever good reasons or good motives, deciding that it should appropriate to itself something that is legitimately the jurisdiction of this committee.

I think we have done an admirable job in that area of occupational health and safety. We have some members on the committee who have been here ongoing who have developed some sort of expertise in that area. It would be most inappropriate for another committee just to suddenly take it on. I think that is applicable in this case. We have at least two members, Mr Johnston and Mr Jackson, as well as the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of Skills Development, Colleges and Universities and Education, on the standing committee on social development who indeed have some expertise in this area.

1630

I think it would be most unfortunate if we decide to proceed. However, if the committee wishes to and if the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour can answer my question, the question I put some time ago, then we will have some idea of how we, as a full committee or the subcommittee, can proceed. If you could just let me know what line in the estimates for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, or for that matter the Ministry of Labour, or what branch of either one of those ministries or what program in either one of those ministries or what agency that reports to either one of those ministries we are looking at, then we will have some way of knowing where to go. It will give us, either as a full committee, if we have to do it that way, or as a subcommittee, an idea of how we answer all of the questions on this agenda.

**Mr Mackenzie:** I do not want to prolong it, but I had one other comment, and it follows Mr Fleet's remarks, because maybe I was not understanding them or he was not understanding. I acknowledge the overlap in many areas, but I do not think your analogy was necessarily a good one. Labour will come to the Ministry of Economics when they want to raise their concerns about the budget, they will come to the Ministry of the Environment and a number of various ministries over concerns they have, but that is their concern with that particular ministry policy.

I think there is a difference between that and an area where the funding is going to be Skills Training or Colleges and Universities, which has nothing to do with this committee altogether. I just think that has to be kept clear in

people's minds. You are talking a little different argument in the argument you are making, and it is not just labour, it could be any number of groups that will have an interest in specific legislation and areas. But that bill dealing with that is not something that they are going to bring before one of those committees. They are going to come before another committee where they are dealing with that particular piece of legislation.

**Mr Dietsch:** I am not sure it will ever get stretched as my friend has suggested, where we start splitting the hairs of occupational health and safety going to a health department, but none the less, in your comments earlier, Mr Chairman, was it your intent to bring Mr Jackson and Mr Johnston before the subcommittee to make their presentation? Is that what you were suggesting?

**The Chair:** No, they had both asked to come before the committee when it could be scheduled to keep with their schedule as well.

**Mr Dietsch:** I have nothing against that.

**Mr Mackenzie:** I was asked before why we did not do this and I had no defence, because I did not think of it either.

**The Chair:** I think the appropriate process would be to have the subcommittee deal with the terms of reference and then those terms of reference come back to the full committee for approval or amendment or whatever, at which point then the critics could be brought in to comment on the terms of reference we had.

**Mr Fleet:** Can I make a suggestion then? I particularly took into account Mrs Marland's comment. Would it be appropriate then to suggest the subcommittee meet with the intention of having Mr Johnston and Mr Jackson make whatever argument they want to the subcommittee about terms of reference? I think that was the preference, to have them go first, before the terms of reference are set. I think that was Mrs Marland's preference. Partly I suggest the subcommittee because if you are going to arrange its schedule with their schedules too, it may be a little more flexible. Then the subcommittee will do that and they can do the rest of the stuff and come back to the committee.

**The Chair:** I am open on that. My own view is that it would be better for the subcommittee to do its terms of reference, but I certainly would not be hung up on that.

**Mr Fleet:** That was her stated preference, that is why—

**Mr Mackenzie:** It might save some problems. I am inclined to think you are right, but I would not have real difficulty in having them appear before the subcommittee. The only thing is, they have the right, as any member does, to come before the full committee if they want.

**Mr Fleet:** We will live with that. That was just Margaret's suggestion.

**The Chair:** Is there a consensus to have them meet with the subcommittee? Is that what I am hearing?

**Mrs Marland:** I am not going to get involved in flipping back and forth between the subcommittee and the full committee. I think Mr Miller should know, if he was not here, that I moved adjournment because I think this whole exercise we are going through is ridiculous.

Mr Chairman, have we not asked the Speaker? Do you feel that he actually replied to the question he was asked in the House today, or are you still expecting a reply from him?



**The Chair:** I cannot speak for him, but I will be very surprised if he intervenes in the business of the committee.

One thing we have not touched on is the whole question of timing. We are now into the first week in May and there is a constituency week later in the month. If we are going to do anything at all on workplace literacy, I think we have to proceed forthwith with the terms of reference and get that straightened out, because it takes time to notify people who want to talk to the committee, and if the committee wants any report flowing from its deliberations, the time is of such a limited nature already that we would have to proceed immediately.

**Mrs Marland:** I want to follow up on the remarks of my colleague the member for Algoma, which were right on. We could have dealt with the bills by now. Frankly, I do not think we should take Mr Johnston's and Mr Jackson's time to come before the committee, because I am quite sure the two members on this side of the room understand what their argument is, so we are going to invite those two men to come and speak to Mr Dietsch and the subcommittee.

Frankly, I think if that argument is to be made by those two members about the correct committee for workplace literacy to be dealt with, the whole committee should benefit from their input and hear what it is they have to say. I cannot see Mr Dietsch being any more convinced hearing from them privately than at the full committee. It has been Mr Dietsch's choice to bring this matter to the full committee at this point, so we might as well finish it off at this point.

**Mr Fleet:** Bring them to the whole committee then.

**Mrs Marland:** I want to clarify again that I am not in favour of dealing with this subject ahead of the matters from the House, the two bills that were referred to this committee.

**Mr Fleet:** That is not what I said.

**Mrs Marland:** And I want to tell Mr Miller that the reason I was moving adjournment was because of the fact that this matter, as has been pointed out, is really far better dealt with in the social development committee.

**The Chair:** The Chair is having difficulty, because there is no motion. Would someone be prepared to make a motion, and it will either be defeated or carried, to have the matter dealt with either in the subcommittee or the whole committee? I do not really care which it is, but we need a motion before us to resolve this problem. There has been a lot of debate. Is anyone prepared to move a motion one way or the other?

**Mr Fleet:** I will move it, in light of the comments by Mrs Marland. I thought she wanted it in the subcommittee. I will move to request Mr Johnston and Mr Jackson to come before the committee.

**The Chair:** The full committee?

**Mr Fleet:** The full committee. I think that was her stated preference. It does not matter much to me whether we do it one way or the other. I thought the subcommittee might be faster, but if that is the preference they have, then do it that way.

**The Chair:** That means presumably that it would be at the earliest possible time, but it would have to be in keeping with their schedule.

**Mr Fleet:** This committee meets again Wednesday, so presumably Wednesday.

**The Chair:** We can try.

Interjections.

**Mr Fleet:** Well, he has asked for the motion. I did not think we were going to need a motion to do this. I thought we were just going to agree on something.

**The Chair:** It did not seem to me we were reaching an agreement.

Mr Fleet moves that Mr Johnston and Mr Jackson be asked to come before the committee at the earliest possible time.

Hopefully, we will try to get them to come on Wednesday. That means the committee then will not deal with the issue until they have appeared before us. Is that understood?

**Mr Mackenzie:** Just so I understand it fully, I understand that and I am prepared to support that motion of Mr Fleet. It does not rule out the fact that, once we have had the discussion and decided where we are going—it may or may not change a thing, as Mrs Marland says, but it does not rule out that if the decision, however, is that we are proceeding at that point in time, we could then have the steering committee meet to lay out the agenda we are talking about here, because that may be easier than doing it in the full committee. It may not, either, but I am suggesting that. So if that is not ruled out, I am prepared to accept the motion.

**The Chair:** Do you want to make that part of the motion, that following that the subcommittee—

**Mr Fleet:** It is not necessary.

**The Chair:** Are you all right on that? All right, we can leave that as understood.

Is there any further debate on Mr Fleet's motion?

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** That means then that we will not deal with the terms of reference until we have had a chance to speak to the two opposition critics. If the government members wish to have a parliamentary assistant or whoever come before the committee as well, that is fine.

**Mr Fleet:** It is one of six.

**The Chair:** Yes, that is right. Any further business?

**Mr Wildman:** I would like to formally request that I get an answer to my question.

**The Chair:** Which was?

**Mr Wildman:** What branch, program or agency of either the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology or the Ministry of Labour are we dealing with if we proceed?

**The Chair:** Can the research person get that answer?

**Ms Luski:** For Wednesday?

**Mr Wildman:** I am not in any hurry.

**Mr Fleet:** Wait and give him an answer in June.

**The Chair:** The other matter, which we will not deal with today, however, is the agenda down the road for the committee. I think it is premature until we know what is going on around this place, so I do not think it makes any sense to deal with that now. A couple of members have asked, what about the month of July? I think it is too soon to fret about that.

**Mrs Marland:** I think the members on that side of the room could answer that far better than the members on this side of the room.

**The Chair:** Any further business?

**Mr Wildman:** I would like to give notice right now that, since the Constitution of the country relates to all mini-

stries and all operations of government, pending the outcome of the Meech Lake accord, I would bring that back before this committee.

**The Chair:** On that note, we are adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 1642.



## CONTENTS

Monday 7 May 1990

<b>Future Business</b> .....	R-1239
<b>Adjournment</b> .....	R-1246

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**Chair:** Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
**Vice-Chair:** Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)  
Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
Riddell, Jack (Huron L)  
Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

**Substitution:**

Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) for Mr Riddell

**Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn

**Staff:** Luski, Lorraine, Research Officer, Legislative Research Service

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday 9 May 1990

The committee met at 1610 in committee room 1.

### FUTURE BUSINESS

**The Chair:** We are here today because there has been a dispute on the committee as to whether or not we should proceed with the study of workplace literacy. Those people in favour of it simply said they thought we should do it. Those in favour were the government members. Those opposed to it said, "No, it does not fit on this committee and besides, we do not have time to do an adequate job." That is summarizing it very briefly but I think that is basically where it is at.

The committee decided on Monday to invite the two opposition critics who have responsibility for this matter as part of their responsibilities. Also, we asked the research person, Lorraine Luski, to see where workplace literacy fitted into the two ministries that come under the aegis of this committee, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. I think that has been distributed to members. There is a reference in each case. In one case it is the Premier's Council and in the other case it has to do only with the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety.

So rather than get into all that, because Richard and Cam have agreed to come and express their views to the committee, I really think we ought to hear from them first before we get into any other kind of debate.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Since I raised it, perhaps I will go first. I know Cam has a limited amount of time but I do not intend to take very long.

My complaint in the House was raised around standing order 106, which the clerk referred to a few minutes ago before we went on Hansard here. It basically says that committees are struck essentially to deal with matters under their areas of competency. That is to say, we give certain standing committees certain ministries, and agencies and boards within the responsibilities of those ministries. The committees look at matters, whether they are to do with, in the old days, the estimates of those ministries or, in this case where we are dealing with private members' business, other matters that may be wished to be dealt with by a committee.

I was concerned when I understood that you were looking at or wanting to look at workplace literacy, not because it is not an issue that should be looked at, because it is, but because in my view this is not the appropriate committee to be looking at the matter. I think—as I raised it with the Speaker, who was reluctant to rule on it because he thought it was a matter for the committee to decide—that your committee has very specific ministries for which it is responsible, and none of them has responsibility for literacy programs, whether they are workplace literacy programs or other programs.

Workplace literacy programs essentially fall under the Ministry of Skills Development. That is its responsibility. It in fact is taking the lead in co-ordination of literacy programs in general these days, although it can be said that both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities also have certain very specific roles around the development of

literacy programs, some of which may in fact interact with workplace literacy programs.

There are a number of ad hoc programs which are underway at the moment in workplaces but none of these is administered by the Ministry of Labour, which for instance is your responsibility to deal with in the standing committee on resources development, and commissions which come from that. Any references, I would argue, from other agencies about workplace literacy, understanding the importance around health and safety, etc, are noteworthy in the sense that of course we would expect an agency to notice problems in its particular area, but the responsibility for this is not in a ministry under your committee's jurisdiction.

Therefore, I would have argued that, even without calling us before your committee, the Speaker might not have known or been able to respond to the fact that workplace literacy falls under the Ministry of Skills Development. You certainly can find that out and in fact your researcher's work has confirmed that very fact.

If you want this matter dealt with and you feel it is a serious matter to deal with, I would recommend that the action you take is to write the Chair of the standing committee on social development, Yvonne O'Neill, and say to her that your committee has identified this as an issue worthy of investigation at this stage and that if the social development committee, which is the committee properly charged with the ministries of Education, Skills Development and Colleges and Universities—all the ministries involved—as well as the old ministry that used to deal with literacy, which is the Ministry of Culture and Citizenship—all of these fall under social development—you might want to send a letter saying perhaps social development would like to pick up this ball and run with it.

We have nothing on our plate specifically on social development at this stage. We have just dealt with one private member's initiative at this stage. It may be that there would be an openness to looking at this issue but, frankly, I do not see, in terms of our standing orders, that you have the authority to proceed with it here. One of the reasons we decide not to let every committee do everything is that we want to have a certain organization of events around here and we also want to make sure that critics can be where they are supposed to be.

The critics, in terms of our kinds of fields, are all supposed to be on social development because that is where all those organized ministries that we deal with—not just around literacy, but all the other matters—find themselves, and for us to then be expected to accommodate ourselves to your schedule, which we would want to do because this is an issue upon which we have some expertise, is not something which is realistic because we have our other obligations.

My plea to you today is to recognize on your own that the standing orders are there for some very basic organizational reasons and that the most you can do at this stage would be to invite the social development committee, through a letter to the Chair, to undertake this kind of a project, which is within our ambit to do.

**Mr Jackson:** My purpose in being here today, aside from substituting for Margaret Marland, is to echo Richard's comments. I could not have stated them any more eloquently or more to the point. I can only indicate that this matter has been raised within our caucus. We fully support the question that Richard raised in the House and we too, for all the reasons Richard has enunciated, support this committee coming to its own conclusion that this matter be referred to the social development committee.

Both Richard and I are on the steering committee of the social development committee and we certainly both have expressed interest in these matters, and also, in our other capacity on the select committee on education, we agree that it is somewhat timely. We agree that, with the government in many respects dismantling the Ministry of Skills Development and designating that Education will in fact be the largest single bearer of those responsibilities, it is clear that it is the committee and the MPPs in the Legislature who will deal with this subject area.

I can only fully support everything Richard has said and indicate that that is also the position of our caucus in this matter.

**The Chair:** I appreciate that. For the information of Mr Carrothers, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology is under the ambit of this committee but the only aspect of Industry, Trade and Technology—and correct me if I am wrong, Lorraine—that deals with workplace literacy is the Premier's Council and the Premier's Council comes under the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. So that is a bit of a twist, too. Am I right in that?

**Ms Luski:** I do not know if MITT comes under—

**The Chair:** It does.

**Ms Luski:** Okay. You are right about that. But, yes, that was my understanding, having checked with—

**The Chair:** Yes, okay.

1620

**Mr Carrothers:** Could I comment as the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology? I do not want to disagree with any of what has been said, but I suspect that this type of issue is one that is of great concern to the ministry itself in its concerns about the level of skills within our economy and the ability of our industries to be competitive in a world environment or a world economy.

I guess this demonstrates the fact that some of these lines are not so neat and clean in that, in fact, while I guess theoretically only the Premier's Council has some sort of program dealing with literacy, the concern about this issue is very great within the ministry in terms of its general economic concern.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Although the Premier's Council is making recommendations around literacy—the direction of education and the interaction between education and the workplace I think would be the general terms to look at it—it is not programmatic. If you look at on-line responsibility, the on-line responsibility at this stage very much rests with the Ministry of Skills Development.

The other thing that would be dangerous—I did not want to get into the merits of the specifics of your motion—I would be very concerned if a committee tried to deal with workplace literacy in isolation, because if you do that without looking at the community-based programs, college-based programs and the remedial programs within the education system, it would be

to miss a real picture of what the overall scene is and where workplace literacy is in that as well.

**The Chair:** Members will notice, in the paper that Lorraine did, that the Premier's Council will be releasing a report in the next couple of months on this whole matter.

**Mr Wildman:** I will not speak at length. I think it is clear that this is a matter of importance to Ontario society, to Ontario industry and business as well as to labour. It is a matter that industry is concerned about as well as labour. But, as has been indicated by the critics, it is clear that the on-line responsibility rests with the Ministry of Skills Development and a number of other ministries, such as the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture and Communications, which are all under the ambit of the standing committee on social development.

I think Lorraine's brief paper here certainly does indicate the problem that we have as a committee that is responsible for looking at programs the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Ministry of Labour have in dealing with this matter. We have already dealt with the matter under MITT, the Premier's Council, which basically would indicate that this committee, at best, has only a tenuous relationship to anything related under MITT.

I think it is even clearer when you look at the Ministry of Labour and if you look at the last paragraph of Lorraine Luski's report on page 2: "A review of the ministry's estimates briefing book for 1989-90 did not yield any specific references to workplace literacy initiatives."

Miss D'Emmanuel, from the deputy minister's office, noted that she was not aware of any formal workplace programs, with the possible exception of ad hoc grants made to certain groups for this purpose in conjunction with the Ministry of Skills Development. Again, that points out the fact that the Ministry of Skills Development is indeed the program ministry and the ministry that is responsible for funding programs for literacy, including workplace literacy.

I think this puts this committee in a difficult position. I would be interested in hearing the views of other members on whether it would be appropriate for us to proceed, whether we should move this matter back to our steering committee for some kind of resolution or whether it would be appropriate for us, as has been suggested by Mr Johnston, to have our Chair write to the Chair of the standing committee on social development and suggest that this is an important matter that we as members are concerned about and that we think should be looked into and suggest that the members, as the committee responsible for the ministry that is dealing with it, proceed with an investigation. I think those are the three options. Frankly, the third one is my preference, but I would like to hear the views of other members.

**Mr Mackenzie:** The argument or the comment was made. I think by Mr Carrothers, just a few minutes ago that there certainly was at least an interest in terms of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology in this issue. I can tell him that I would be appalled if there were not also an interest at Labour. The fact remains, though, that it is not its responsibility. That is not the funding or line ministry at all on it. It is clear that Skills Development, with probably secondary roles in Education, Colleges and Universities and maybe even Citizenship, because it does fund some literacy programs with new Canadians, etc, all are ahead of any responsibility or involvement that MITT and Labour have on this issue at the moment, which I think puts us on a hell of a spot.



If we proceed with the recommendation that was made that we deal with this, we are certainly usurping our jurisdiction and authority. I am not sure that we are not going to find our hands tied more often than not, because we are dealing with three or four major ministries that have the responsibility for this area, and we do not. It would appear that if it is a major, immediate concern, and I think it is an issue that is important, there is at least the option to go with the people who have had the responsibility, as we had indicated in the testimony before us here today.

I sure as hell would not want to be dealing with an issue that we did not have the responsibility for, and I am not sure—I am not enough of a rules or procedures person to know—just what all we will run into, but I would much rather know that it is in the terms of reference of our committee, which this is not.

I think the unfortunate bind we are in—I think we have to be fairly frank about it—is that the recommendation or the move to go with workplace literacy is a result of a rather bitter argument we had in committee over whether or not we would proceed on three private members' bills that it was obvious the government did not want to proceed on. They have got that authority, whether I think they are right or wrong on it. I do not think the answer, though, is to come back in with the recommendation that we deal with a bill that is not our responsibility. There are all kinds of things that we can still take a look at that are of some importance without literally tying our hands, as I think we will do in this particular case.

**Mrs Marland:** I am sorry I was a few minutes late, because I was trying to hold the fort in the House.

**The Chair:** The wait was worth it, having seen you in that wonderful dress.

**Mrs Marland:** You saw me there, did you? Good.

**The Chair:** And here.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chairman, could you advise me of the makeup of the government members of the committee today. Do we have three subs here today?

**The Chair:** Yes, we have Ms Poole, Mr J. B. Nixon and Mr Carrothers.

**Mrs Marland:** They are all subs?

**The Chair:** Legitimate subs.

**Mrs Marland:** Yes, I know they are legitimate. The reason I ask that is it is a little frustrating to be here today, trying to deal with this matter, which is now the third time at least that this committee has discussed this. As few as there are of us in our two caucuses, we manage one way or another to cover our bases. So here we are today with only two members of this committee representing the government members who have been here on the other three occasions when this has been discussed. They are going to be asked, or directed, I suppose, to vote on an issue we have felt was important enough that we invited our colleagues, Richard Johnston and Cam Jackson, to come and give this committee the information needed to make what is obviously a very logical conclusion; that is, that this matter has no business being here before the resources development committee. In fact, the social development committee is the committee to deal with it.

The fact that we want to refer it to that committee is not saying that we do not think it is an important matter. For the sake of the subs, we should perhaps tell them, because they may not know this, that there are two other very important matters that were referred by the House to this committee to be dealt

with, namely, two legislative bills. Those two legislative bills, by a vote of the Liberal members on this committee, are not being dealt with. They have been thrown out the window and in return we got this, "Well, what subject shall we grasp out of the air?" The person who grasped this subject out of the air is not even here today. Is Mr Lipsett also a substitute member?

1630

**The Chair:** No, he is one of us.

**Mrs Marland:** Oh, he is legitimate. Good. Now we are down to at least three members who are regular members and—

**Mr Carrothers:** That means we have half of our membership here, just as your caucus does.

**Mrs Marland:** We have three substitute members and—

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** I have put in the time and the effort to come here, and to have that thrown in my face I find—

**Mrs Marland:** I am glad that you are here. Otherwise we would not have six government members to whip this committee into shape.

We obviously are going to go through a process here after—I hope the committee members recognize that this whole discussion is evolving out of a chronology of events that to say the least has been a little unusual in the committee process. We are here as a committee, I should say for the substitute members' edification, discussing something that normally is discussed by a subcommittee. That in itself is unusual, but nevertheless here we are, doing what the subcommittee business usually is.

Before you vote on whatever motion I am about to make, I hope that you realize that your party has already voted against dealing with government matters, or business of the Legislature that was referred to this committee, namely, two bills, two pieces of legislation.

We are now going to vote on what to do with workplace literacy, which my colleagues in the official opposition and myself and others have identified as being a very important subject, but we also have identified that it is so important that we do not think it can be dealt with in the time remaining in this sitting. If you agree that it is an important subject, I think you would agree too that in the time remaining in this sitting we cannot schedule hearings and presentations on the subject of workplace literacy in the time remaining and do a respectable job with it.

I think it is particularly significant, as the member for Algoma has pointed out, and I will not repeat all his points and comments of a few minutes ago, but it certainly is relevant that in the Ministry of Labour there is no—

**Mr Wildman:** There are three bills before the committee.

**Mrs Marland:** My colleague the member for Algoma has just pointed out to me that we in fact have three bills that have been referred to this committee to be heard and dealt with in the committee process, but we are not going to deal with that because the Liberal government members do not wish to.

**The Chair:** Mrs Marland, before you move your motion, would you mind if I put before the committee some options that it might want to consider before someone moves a precipitous motion?

**Mrs Marland:** I would not mind as long as I get back to speak first right after you. If I am going to give up the floor to you, Mr Chairman, which I am more than happy to do—if I get to get the floor back then I would like to place the motion.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** Are you wearing your jackboots today or not?

**The Chair:** Mrs Marland, I have trouble recognizing anyone else when you are in the room.

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Mr Chairman, on a point of order: I am not a member of the committee. Our members are here. I have been asked to come and give some information. I do not really want to be here for your vote determining process; that is up to you. I believe this whole thing is up to you to make the right decision on. If there is more information that is required of me, I would be glad to give it.

I just think the precedent you are talking about is really dangerous, should your committee, which is not responsible for the Ministry of Skills Development, for instance, be calling witnesses from Skills Development, whom you have to call if you want to deal with workplace literacy, when they can rightfully say they are responsible to report to another committee.

Should we be setting up something where committees are going to start doing the other committees' business? I can think of a number of ways that social development could do things that would infringe upon your committee's rights. That would be just a terrible thing for us to do. I would just say to you before you go down that route, rather than letting this whole matter drop, the major option would be to turn it back to us to deal with and I will make sure that it is raised in our steering committee meeting.

I know the Chair would be interested in raising this matter because at the moment we do not have anything major on our plate, and if there are people who wish to substitute from this committee, that would be the process; that would be the way to do it. If there are no questions of me, I would rather—

**Mrs Marland:** You have steering committees, do you, on your committee?

**Mr R. F. Johnston:** Occasionally they meet. I gather that is not always the case here.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mr Johnston. Ms Poole.

**Mrs Marland:** I have not finished.

**The Chair:** I am sorry. I did make a promise. I was going to put before the committee—I am sorry.

**Ms Poole:** I am just talking on a point of order and I was just going to ask a question. Margaret mentioned that the entire committee had decided not to send this to the steering committee, and normally this would be a decision made by a steering committee. I am sorry, as Margaret has pointed out, that several of us are subs so we do not know the history, but I am wondering, is that going to be one of the options you will be discussing?

**The Chair:** Yes. Well, it is going—

**Ms Poole:** So that is not a dead issue.

**The Chair:** Right. What I was going to suggest is—there are a number of possibilities here.

**Mrs Marland:** I will finish—

**The Chair:** Okay, but I just want to put some—I am not going to try to cut you off.

**Mrs Marland:** Okay.

**The Chair:** I will turn the floor back to you. I want members to think about this. First, it is because the full committee has already voted to deal with workplace literacy. That was

done in the full committee on a vote. So if the committee decides that is the route to continue, the committee will decide that. The Speaker has made it clear that it is up to us as a committee. We cannot fall back, I do not think, on the standing orders. That is up to us to decide.

**Mr Wildman:** We have to decide in conjunction with our understanding of the standing orders.

**The Chair:** I agree. So one possibility would be to forge ahead. Another would be to withdraw the motion and have the agenda of the committee referred back to the steering committee. I think now Mr Dietsch has agreed to meet as a steering committee. He had a problem with that before. The third option would be for this full committee to express anxiety about the process and to refer the entire matter back to the steering committee. I am not sure if that would resolve it, but it would be a way of letting the steering committee have another run at the issue.

I am not trying to sell you any one of them, but those, I think, are the options.

The fourth one would be to agree that the issue should be studied and to ask the standing committee on social development if it would consider it.

I think those are four options the committee could consider.

**Mrs Marland:** I listened very carefully to your options. What I was in the midst of saying is that since the committee system is dependent on the way it is structured in order for it to work—I think our colleague Mr Johnston just made that very clear—if the committee system as defined by our standing orders starts to get changed by individual committees, the whole system breaks down, and we have well identified those ministries for which this committee is responsible.

In the report today by Lorraine Luski, our research officer, we certainly are looking at two of the ministries for which this committee is responsible and it is somewhat ironic to find that in fact one of them has no specific references to workplace literacy initiatives in its current estimates briefing book, that being for 1989-90. That is the Ministry of Labour. I think my colleague the member for Algoma probably has already placed this on the record about the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology.

This is the fourth meeting where we have discussed what work this committee should do. Bearing in mind that in those four meetings we could by now have dealt with at least one, perhaps two, of the three bills that were referred to this committee, I think it is time, frankly, to stop fooling around and playing games or whatever it is that is going on and respect our standing orders.

If we want the standing orders changed and we want those ministries and those subject areas that are reflected by those ministries to come to our committee, then I think what we do is ask for an amendment to the standing orders. But as it is today, those are the standing orders. Based on the presentations of Mr Jackson and Mr Johnston, it makes inherent sense to move that the subject of workplace literacy be referred to the standing committee on social development. I do so move.

1640

**The Chair:** The committee, if my understanding of the rules around here is correct—it not always is—simply cannot refer it to another committee. We can write a letter to the social development committee and ask that it consider it, but it would not be appropriate to think that we could just refer it by a motion.



**Mrs Marland:** I will amend the motion by saying that we would refer it by a letter from the Chairman respectfully asking them to.

**The Chair:** Ms Poole, you are the Chair of that, are you not?

**Ms Poole:** No, actually it is Mrs O'Neill.

**Mr Sola:** If I could just comment, at the last meeting, if I remember correctly, we had decided to hear the two critics and after we had heard their arguments we would refer this back to the steering committee and let the steering committee set the agenda for this committee. I think the reason Mr Dietsch lost his faith in the steering committee was that he had figured that in some prior meeting some things had gotten out to the public. This was cleared up later by Mr Wildman and Mr Mackenzie. I think he lost faith, figuring that steering committees were open meetings.

I think if we want to revive the faith of our party member on the steering committee in that committee, we should not contravene the agreement that we had come to at the last meeting and we should go according to plan. We have heard the two delegations, we have had a discussion, and I recommend that we refer it back to the steering committee.

**The Chair:** We do have a motion before the committee. I understand what you are saying, Mr Sola, and I think you are correct in that at the last meeting it was indicated that we would have the steering committee—

**Mr Sola:** Especially in light of the serious questions raised by the delegations regarding overlapping authority and perhaps contravening the standing orders and setting a dangerous precedent, I think it would be good to reflect on the arguments they raised. Mr Dietsch unfortunately was not able to make it, but he has promised to read Hansard and clue himself in on the arguments raised here. He will be well briefed when the steering committee decides to meet.

**The Chair:** The point is well taken. Anything else? We are speaking to Mrs Marland's motion.

**Mr Mackenzie:** If I can just stretch the point, while I have no disagreement with Mrs Marland's motion, I will vote against it, only because I agree in this case with the point that was made by my colleague Mr Sola. I would remind him that we did not agree that it would go back to the committee. If you will recall, I was the one who pushed that one of our options, because we were not clear on that, was that it could go back. In other words, we did not have to continue with the topic once we heard from the two witnesses; we could, if we wished, refer it back to the steering committee and it could make a recommendation.

I think that is the route I would like to go with the issue. That way we can accomplish the same thing. We can decide there if it is agreeable to forward this letter from the Chair—which it has to be; it cannot be a direct motion to the Chair of the other committee—or whether we want to take some other course of action. The steering committee can then make that decision, I think.

**The Chair:** You are suggesting, I think, that that letter not be sent unless the steering committee—

**Mr Mackenzie:** I think the steering committee should deal with it first. We have had an unfortunate series of situations with the steering committee and that is why I would make that particular suggestion. I agree with the suggestion Mrs Marland has made on where this issue should go.

**The Chair:** Mrs Marland, would you perhaps consider it a friendly amendment to your motion that this be done, if the steering committee agrees to this? Otherwise, it comes back to the full committee and we get on with it.

**Mrs Marland:** You know, it is probably very easy for me to say yes, I agree, but it really annoys me that we are spending a second meeting because the member—

**The Chair:** I am not trying to convince you of that. You can proceed on this.

**Mrs Marland:** Okay, but let's be clear. The reason we are not in the steering committee is that the Liberal member for the steering committee refused to meet as a steering committee, and today he is not here, which is fine; I am not criticising him for not being here.

**Mr J. B. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Mr Philip of the New Democratic Party and I have had many agreements and disagreements in public, but we have come to the agreement, in public, in committees where Mrs Marland has been present, that reference to the presence or non-presence of a member is a real violation of that member's personal privilege.

**Mrs Marland:** I just corrected that. I am simply saying that Mr Dietsch is not here today; I was not criticizing that he was not here. I simply said that he is not here today, and he is the person who did not want to meet as a subcommittee, so I am simply asking: If we refer this back to the subcommittee, if it is still going to be Mr Dietsch, is he going to want to meet? But he is not here, so we cannot ask him that.

**The Chair:** Mr Dietsch has agreed to meet as part of the subcommittee.

**Mrs Marland:** Oh, well, that is fine.

**The Chair:** So can we deal with Mrs Marland's motion? Are you ready for the question?

**Mr Wildman:** Am I to understand that there has not been any change to the motion?

**The Chair:** No. The motion is that we write to the Chair of the standing committee on social development asking it to undertake the study of this problem rather than us. That is right, Mrs Marland, more or less?

All those in favour of Mrs Marland's motion, please indicate. Opposed?

Motion negated.

**The Chair:** Is it agreed then that we really do not need a motion for this, if it is agreed by the committee that the steering committee will meet on Monday and we will once again consider, in view of the comments that have been made here by individual members and by Mr Jackson and Mr Johnston, that we will take another look at the whole question of the agenda of this committee? Is that agreed?

**Mr Mackenzie:** I make the same point as I made in suggesting it should go back to the steering committee, and I think it is obvious it would, back to the steering committee also is the content of the motion that Mrs Marland made, because in this particular area, that may very well be the best approach to it.

**The Chair:** We will consider that on the steering committee. I agree with you. Any further comments? I appreciate very much your attendance and your contribution to the debate this afternoon.

The committee adjourned at 1647.



**CONTENTS**

Wednesday 9 May 1990

<b>Future business</b> .....	R-1249
<b>Adjournment</b> .....	R-1253

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT****Chair:** Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)**Vice-Chair:** Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)

Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)

Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)

Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)

Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Riddell, Jack (Huron L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

**Substitutions:**

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L) for Mr Dietsch

Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) for Mr Riddell

Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) for Mr Harris

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L) for Mr Fleet

**Also taking part:**

Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)

**Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn**Staff:** Luski, Lorraine, Research Officer, Legislative Research Service

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C13  
596



R-26 1990

R-26 1990

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 34th Parliament

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 13 June 1990

## Standing committee on resources development

Report of the business  
subcommittee

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 34<sup>e</sup> législature

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 13 juin 1990

## Comité permanent du développement des ressources

Rapport du sous-comité  
des travaux



Chair: Floyd Laughren  
Clerk: Lynn Mellor

Président : Floyd Laughren  
Greffier : Lynn Mellor

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Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears at the back, together with a list of committee members and other members taking part.

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La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste des membres du comité et des autres députés ayant participé.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday 13 June 1990

The committee met at 1538 in committee room 2.

### REPORT OF THE BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE

**The Vice-Chair:** We have before us the recommendations—I guess they are called that; I am not sure—of the subcommittee from the meeting held on Wednesday 6 June to consider the future business of this committee. Do you want to wait for Jim Pollock or are we okay to start?

**Mrs Marland:** No, that is fine.

**The Vice-Chair:** I gather also from the last meeting, which was not a meeting, that these recommendations were carried unanimously. If somebody wants to challenge that, I was not there.

**Mrs Marland:** I will just move the recommendations again.

**The Vice-Chair:** Let's go through them. We have to. It should not take long, I do not think.

Workplace literacy is the first one:

"1. That the standing committee on resources development not proceed with hearings on workplace literacy; and

"2. That the Chair should inform the standing committee on social development of the decision and encourage that committee to review the matter."

Is there any discussion on that? Is there agreement with that recommendation?

Agreed to.

**Mr Fleet:** Let the record note I am very disappointed that we cannot deal with that. I understand the reason for it, but it makes a big difference in my riding and it was something I hoped we could deal with.

**The Vice-Chair:** Okay. We have agreed with both those recommendations, which means the Chair will inform the standing committee on social development of the decision and encourage that committee to review the matter.

"That the committee should meet Monday 18 June and Wednesday 20 June to conduct public hearings on, and clause-by-clause consideration of, Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission (Mr Pollock)."

Is there any discussion on that?

**Mr Fleet:** Perhaps Mr Pollock could speak to this.

**Mr Pollock:** I will certainly be pleased to have delegations come in on those two particular days, and along with the list that I have already presented to the clerk with about five presenters, I would like it added that the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Transportation would also be available to present briefs, possibly on the second day.

**The Vice-Chair:** Is it fair for the Chair to ask why your bill got passed and the two that we had did not?

**Mr Pollock:** You can ask it. I am not answering it. I do not know.

**The Vice-Chair:** We will leave it there.

**Mr Pollock:** I think it is because I am a good guy really.

**The Vice-Chair:** I suspect it has to do with seniority, but I am not sure.

**Mrs Marland:** No. Do you want me to answer the question?

**The Vice-Chair:** No, not really. It was a facetious question.

**Mr Pollock:** Any other questions from the committee members?

**Mrs Marland:** No. We are in agreement to do that on Monday and Wednesday.

**Mr Fleet:** And if necessary the following Monday if for any reason we do not complete the clause-by-clause. We should be able to get through it, but if we do not for some reason—

**The Vice-Chair:** The recommendation—I do not know whether it affects the next items or not—was for two days only. Unless you want to enlarge on that, I think I would be inclined to stick with that.

**Mrs Marland:** The subcommittee agreed to two days and Mr Pollock agreed with two days.

**Mr Fleet:** The only reason I suggest that—I spoke to Jim before we came in about whether it might go to a third day—was simply because the original list was five groups and if you have three ministries, and I think it is important to have them, it might chew up your time, particularly if on one of those two days routine proceedings go longer than expected. That was the reason I made the comment that we are willing to go the third day just to complete it. I just want to be fair so that Mr Pollock has the chance for all the people to come before us and do their thing and then a fair time to deal with the clause-by-clause. It is not a long bill, so I am not assuming it will take a third day. I just want to give every possibility.

**The Vice-Chair:** If necessary, 25 June; I have no objections. It is in the hands of the committee what it decides on. I suspect we will not get into the next items until later on in any event. We still have a few days there, one or two additional days, if it is necessary. Is there agreement that, if necessary, a third day be added to that?

**Mrs Marland:** Could I just ask the clerk, why have we said only two in the subcommittee? I do not recall.

**Clerk of the Committee:** There was some reservation about sitting at all on that last week because of the timetable and the pressure in the House. There was a strong possibility that the committees would not be able to sit at all.

**Mrs Marland:** I am happy to support the third day.

**The Vice-Chair:** Is there agreement? If there is agreement, I think we are okay. I would ask then if there is agreement on the clause as reworded, with the additional third day if necessary.

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** Summer adjournment: We had a discussion only and I do not know that it needs to be in the minutes, but I know there was a general agreement at the non-meeting a few days ago that we would not sit in July. I hope that is still the feeling of the committee.

**Clerk of the Committee:** The House leaders have agreed to that.

**The Vice-Chair:** The House leaders agreed to that.

**Mrs Marland:** I know we in the subcommittee discussed starting the last week of August. Now that I realize the last week of August is Monday the 27th, I am wondering why we do not leave it until the first week of September.

**The Vice-Chair:** Do you know what the schedule is to go back in?

**Clerk of the Committee:** I do not know yet.

**Mrs Marland:** The actual calendar for sittings starts after Thanksgiving now, does it not?

**Mr Fleet:** I think you are quite safe. With three weeks, you can start in the second week of September even.

**The Vice-Chair:** I thought maybe it had to do with—and I do not have a calendar in front of me—when the House goes back in.

**Mr Fleet:** The third week of September.

**The Vice-Chair:** That is what I thought it was.

**Clerk of the Committee:** I will call to check.

**Mrs Marland:** Because that will make a difference.

**The Vice-Chair:** I would agree if that is the case, but if it is not, you are going to have to start the last week of August.

**Clerk of the Committee:** It is 24 September.

**The Vice-Chair:** There is the Labour Day weekend.

**Mr Campbell:** If I remember from the non-meeting minutes, that in fact was the reason.

**The Vice-Chair:** Can I put this in some order then by starting with the recommendations as made? We may have an amendment here as a result of some of the previous discussion. Two weeks of public hearings and one week for clause-by-clause consideration. I guess there are other items that could be covered first before we reopen that issue. Whether that is adequate may depend on whether there are additional cities covered, as was discussed previously.

**Mrs Marland:** Did we not add, in our non-meeting, the additional cities and therefore an additional week?

**The Vice-Chair:** That was the agreement before we realized we were out of order.

**Mr Fleet:** The last three weeks before the House comes back are which three weeks?

**Clerk of the Committee:** The last three before the House comes back would be the one starting immediately after Labour

Day, which would be Tuesday 4 September and then 10 and 17th September.

**Mr Fleet:** My inclination would be to follow up on what Margaret raised earlier. If we are doing three weeks, we start on 4 September.

**The Vice-Chair:** If there is a week added, you have no choice but when it was scheduled for, 27 August. That will depend on whether or not you have the week.

**Mr Fleet:** I am saying, assuming it is three weeks. I am shortly going to be suggesting that it will be only three weeks. I will tell you now since we are talking about it sort of informally. That would be my suggestion.

**The Vice-Chair:** Let's go back, because we are supposed to be dealing with the recommendations of the subcommittee. The first recommendation was two weeks of public hearings and one week for clause-by-clause consideration.

**Mrs Marland:** In fairness, we cannot vote on that if we are going to add additional towns. That is on page 2, the locations.

**The Vice-Chair:** That is not the order of the recommendations, but it follows logically, I agree. Let's turn to page 2 then. The recommendation of the subcommittee was: "Meetings should be held in Toronto, Windsor, Sault Ste Marie and Cornwall. If response indicates a need, the committee may consider meetings in other communities." This is the area where we had most of the discussion last time.

**Mr Campbell:** Could I raise a question, since I was involved in that debate? In the letter that conveys this information to individuals, it mentions those cities. How were we getting around the fact that we may be adding other cities? Were we going to add, if numbers warrant we go to these other cities, or were we just going to leave it as is and try to stay with that schedule?

**The Vice-Chair:** The letter has not gone out as yet, Lynn, has it?

**Clerk of the Committee:** No. That is just a draft letter, and it would have to be changed to accommodate any changes you make here.

**The Vice-Chair:** It could be changed in the letter itself if there was any change.

**Mrs Marland:** I think we agreed that if we added extra cities we would have to add another week.

**Mr Campbell:** I appreciate that, except that it was pointed out by the then Chairman of the non-meeting that if the people were notified, they may or may not make arrangements to appear if it was too far for them to travel. The point I was making was that if you mentioned these cities and people in Sudbury, for example, said, "If it is Sault Ste Marie, we just won't appear because it's too far to go," then you would not have anybody coming in and therefore it would be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In the letter it was proposed somehow to indicate that if numbers warranted they would be appearing in these other communities. I understand that is not the usual practice. Originally I had said Sudbury instead of Sault Ste Marie and Thunder Bay added, and I think we had talked about London and Kitchener, or just Kitchener. I guess the point is, maybe we have to make a decision whether we are agreeing to an extra week and then we can add the cities. I guess that goes back to

your original point, Mr Chairman, of the numbers warranting the appearances in those cities. I guess that is where we are at.

**The Vice-Chair:** It is much easier when you go in the order the recommendations were made.

**Mr Campbell:** I appreciate that.

**Mr Fleet:** We can be logical now, Mr Chairman.

1550

**Mrs Marland:** I am quite flexible. It is kind of hard to deal with this, knowing that it may not happen, but dealing with it in the responsible context that we are expecting it will happen, I am quite amenable to add another week and go to Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Kitchener-Waterloo. I am quite happy to add those and another week, or I am quite happy to leave it as it is. Whatever choice you make is fine with me.

**The Vice-Chair:** Lynn was going to respond to that.

**Clerk of the Committee:** If you are going to add them, you definitely have to add another week. But if you are going to leave it open to choice, if the numbers warrant it, very rarely do you have enough response from another community. You usually look at four or five people. Occasionally you do from another community, and if you do, at that point it is difficult to fit them in. You are farther ahead to set down your particular cities and go with those rather than to try and fit something in later.

**Mr Campbell:** I would be happy to go back to the original schedule and maybe look at the cities once again, if I might be so bold. I am just concerned about timing, if you go from the committee's work right into the Legislature, which it appears we might have to do.

**The Vice-Chair:** Currently before us, the meetings should be held in just the four cities mentioned, unless somebody wants to move an amendment.

**Mr Fleet:** I will. What I am going to suggest is that we amend the recommendations, or at least the listing that came on this report, to show Toronto, London, Thunder Bay and Cornwall, and to start on 4 September for three weeks.

**Mrs Marland:** Are you taking out the Sault?

**Mr Fleet:** Yes, and Windsor, and proceed on that basis. That would give us the three weeks leading right up to the return of the Legislature. The reason for suggesting Thunder Bay, as opposed to the Sault, is that Thunder Bay is essentially the regional centre for northwestern Ontario and I think it is a reasonable one. I meant to mention another one as well, North Bay. It would be a logical one in the northeast and London is also a more central location for southwestern Ontario. There are a lot of trucking firms in the St Thomas and London area. It allows people to come from both Kitchener and from Windsor. It is essentially the middle, more or less. I think it is just a more logical centre to do it at.

It allows for three weeks of hearings. It allows for a start in September, which I think is preferable with everybody in planning their own vacations as well as whatever plans are made around this place for August. I think it is more feasible that we would get in all three weeks with the time that gives the greater lead time for other groups to contact us. Those are reasonable regional locations. It allows for people from the north to get there and southwestern Ontario as well. I think Cornwall and Toronto are fairly self-evident.

**The Vice-Chair:** There is a motion to amend the recommendation to make the cities Toronto, London, Thunder Bay and North Bay. Am I correct?

**Mr Fleet:** And Cornwall.

**The Vice-Chair:** And Cornwall. That is one additional city then, is it?

**Clerk of the Committee:** Yes, two substitutions and one addition.

**The Vice-Chair:** Can I ask one question of the clerk? There was a fair amount of talk about Windsor. Was it because of any particular reason?

**Clerk of the Committee:** The three communities that are mentioned here, other than Toronto, were all border towns. That was the rationale there.

**Mrs Marland:** That is the fact and that is the reason. If Bud Wildman were here, he was the one who spoke for the Sault, because of the fact that is where there are tremendous truck exchanges, I guess, border-wise, which you do not get at Thunder Bay. I actually spoke to David in favour of Thunder Bay because of the tremendous area that can come there. The irony about talking about the trucking industry is that we are also talking about citizens who are driving on these roads who may or may not have a concern about longer trucks. It is not only the trucking industry that we want to hear from, quite frankly. We know what the trucking industry is probably going to say before we even go on the road.

Sterling was interested, if we were going to go somewhere else in the north—he was speaking about Sudbury as well on Monday.

**The Vice-Chair:** We have a specific amendment to the recommendation. North Bay, Cornwall and Toronto. Are there any other comments?

**Mrs Marland:** If you are going to North Bay, why would you not pick Sudbury or some place a little farther up?

**Mr Fleet:** There is no magic in it. It is a subjective judgement. My sense was that they were like a northwest-northeast balance. I guess that is the best way I can describe it.

**The Vice-Chair:** If I can interject for just a moment, I suspect if we are dropping the Sault, Cornwall may do as one of the border points, but Sudbury would probably be a better northeast Ontario balance between the Sault and North Bay than would North Bay.

**Mr Fleet:** I am not married to doing it in North Bay.

**The Vice-Chair:** Also it probably reacts better with many of the northern members.

**Mr Fleet:** Mr Campbell just stepped out a moment ago.

**Mr Michlash:** The people of North Bay have more access to Toronto. Getting closer to the centre of the northeast I think is the ideal, and Sudbury would do that.

**Mr Fleet:** All right. I am amenable to making it Sudbury. That is not a problem. I was just trying to get a balance; that is all.

**Mrs Marland:** I agree with your argument about pulling the Windsor people back to London and the Kitchener-Waterloo people to London. I agree with that.



**Mr Fleet:** If it is agreeable with everybody, I will amend it to say Sudbury instead of North Bay and perhaps we could get a consensus on that.

**Clerk of the Committee:** That gives you northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest.

**Mr Fleet:** That was the idea, just to balance it.

**Mrs Marland:** So it is five towns now?

**Mr Fleet:** Yes.

**Mrs Marland:** Thunder Bay, London, Sudbury, Cornwall and Toronto. That is fine with me.

**The Vice-Chair:** Let's approve that one and then we will go back to the recommendations we had. I guess we can deal with either one first. "Two weeks of public hearings and one week for clause-by-clause consideration." Is that agreeable with everybody?

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** That means the next recommendation would have to be changed if you want to do it all in September. The next recommendation was that the commencing date should be Monday 27 August.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Tuesday 4 September.

**Mrs Marland:** Okay, that is fine.

**The Vice-Chair:** We probably should have a motion to amend this recommendation, should we not?

**Clerk of the Committee:** If there is agreement, it is okay. We have it on the record.

**The Vice-Chair:** Is there agreement on Tuesday 4 September?

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** "Meetings should be held four days a week."

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** "Each witness should be allotted a one half-hour time slot." Just before you agree on that, it simply goes from experience that if we are not overloaded with witnesses, that is ideal because you really need half an hour to make a decent presentation. But should we get a real response from people, we will cut an awful lot off unless we have enough flexibility to be able to control that a bit or even suggest a shorter time.

**Mr Fleet:** We might say 15 to 30 minutes per—I do not know how to say this—association.

**Clerk of the Committee:** I have found that if you have 15-minute time slots, you have people who do not have an opportunity for questions at all. I have found that half an hour, for the best part, usually accommodates everyone. If it is a case that there are too many people in one location, I do not mind at all sort of steering them in the direction of somebody else with whom they may be in association and asking them to make a joint presentation, as long as there is something from the committee.

**The Vice-Chair:** Does this preclude asking the presenters in any community whether or not they could limit their presentations to 20 or 25 minutes, if necessary?

**Clerk of the Committee:** If they can work it out among themselves.

**The Vice-Chair:** As long as they are agreeable.

**Mr Fleet:** We can encourage joint presentations.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Yes, and they will usually go along with that. I have found that most of them in the smaller communities are looking at more like 10-minute presentations and you can fit a few more in; that is, 10 minutes themselves, and that allows you about 10 minutes.

**Mr Fleet:** I agree completely with your comments that 15 or 20 minutes essentially eliminates the questions.

**The Vice-Chair:** I have no difficulty with the recommendation. I was thinking that in some areas this may turn out to be a little more heated than in others.

**Mr Solá:** What I would like to say is that you have to make it across the board, because I know that in some committees we had half an hour in Toronto and 20 minutes elsewhere and we had people protesting second-class citizenship status on that account.

**The Vice-Chair:** Okay. The recommendation is that each witness shall be allowed a half-hour time slot. Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** "Letters should be sent to those individuals/groups on the contact list established for Bill 87, An Act to amend the Ontario Highway Transport Board Act and Bill 88, An Act to regulate Truck Transportation...and to any additional individuals and groups as identified by each party caucus. Associations should be encouraged to contact their membership."

**Clerk of the Committee:** I will alter those draft letters to take in the changes we have discussed.

**The Vice-Chair:** I have suggested, just so that it is out on the table, that the automobile clubs which have been among the most vocal on this and were not on the attached contact lists—at least the central organization and the Hamilton Automobile Club—should be contacted as well.

**Mr Fleet:** That is perfectly logical.

**The Vice-Chair:** Is there agreement on this recommendation?

**Mrs Marland:** Yes. This is the list from our previous trucking bill list.

**Clerk of the Committee:** I imagine several of these people might be interested in making a presentation on this issue.

**The Vice-Chair:** I would think quite a few of them would. If a caucus has any additional names, get them in to Lynn in a bit of a hurry.

**Mrs Marland:** Does this list include all the citizens or individuals who contacted us on the previous bill?

**Clerk of the Committee:** Yes.

**The Vice-Chair:** Is there agreement on that?

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** "Research summaries are not required." Agreed? I am not too sure what we meant by that.

**Mrs Marland:** What does that mean?

**Clerk of the Committee:** It means that there will not be a research staff person going along doing summaries of the presentations.

**Mrs Marland:** Is that what we want?

**Clerk of the Committee:** It is what you agreed to.

**Mrs Marland:** Yes, I know. That does not mean anything.

**The Vice-Chair:** I do not know about that.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Keep in mind that you will have Hansard along all the time.

**Mrs Marland:** That is right. That is fine. That is why I agreed to it.

Agreed to.

**The Vice-Chair:** You have all seen the attached letters. Are there any comments? I think that covers the recommendations that were made.

The committee adjourned at 1604.

## CONTENTS

Wednesday 13 June 1990

Report of the Business Subcommittee .....	R-1255
Adjournment .....	R-1259

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**Chair:** Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)  
**Vice-Chair:** Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)  
Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)  
Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)  
Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)  
Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)  
Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)  
Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
Riddell, Jack (Huron L)  
Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

**Substitutions:**

Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) for Mr Riddell  
Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC) for Mr Harris

**Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn



ON  
13  
76



R-27 1990

R-27 1990

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 34th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 18 June 1990



### Standing committee on resources development

#### Organization

East/Central Ontario Recreational  
Trails Commission Act, 1989

Chair: Floyd Laughren  
Clerk: Lynn Mellor

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
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## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 34<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 18 juin 1990

### Comité permanent du développement des ressources

#### Organisation

Loi de 1989 portant création de la  
Commission des pistes de loisirs  
de l'est et du centre de l'Ontario

Président : Floyd Laughren  
Greffier : Lynn Mellor

Publié par l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario  
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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Monday 18 June 1990

The committee met at 1557 in committee room 1.

### ORGANIZATION

**The Chair:** I would like to get the sense of the committee members about Wednesday. We are scheduled to sit on Wednesday, but that is the date of the Meech resolution in the House. I await your instructions, but I think a lot of people would like to be in the House that afternoon rather than in committee. The reason we must decide now is that we have a couple of witnesses on Wednesday afternoon, including the ministry. If we decide we do not want to meet on Wednesday, we can put it off until next Monday and do it then. So it is up to the committee. Quite frankly, I will not be here anyway. I am not trying to sell you on any course of action but to determine what the members of the committee wish to do about Wednesday.

**Mr Fleet:** My first concern would be the witnesses. I am just wondering if Mr Pollock can perhaps tell us if it is feasible to move those witnesses from Wednesday to the following Monday, because there are two from his area. Obviously, for the ministry people it is more flexible.

**Mr Pollock:** I cannot speak to it because the clerk contacted these people and made the arrangements. I presume she contacted them and just asked them to come for Wednesday, not whether they could come some time next Monday.

**The Chair:** Our concern, of course, is that if we leave it for Wednesday and we cannot constitute a full meeting because people are in the House, we have called the people in for no purpose. On the other hand, I am not at all opposed to going ahead with the schedule the way it is.

**Mr Fleet:** I wonder if we could impose upon the clerk to phone them now. This is the first I was aware of it. I was not aware until today that was the day of the vote. I appreciate your telling us, Mr Chairman. I think it is a point well taken, but I think we also owe an obligation if people come all the way down from Marmora or Hastings. If I showed up and the committee was not sitting and had not told me, I would be pretty upset. I think if you could phone them now, that might be the best solution.

**The Chair:** Okay. We will try to do that before the meeting ends this afternoon.

The budget of this committee is going before the Board of Internal Economy right now, and I wonder if you could take the chair while I trundle down there. Do you mind?

**Mr Fleet:** Sure. I would be happy to do that.

### EAST/CENTRAL ONTARIO RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMISSION ACT, 1989

Consideration of Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission.

### BANCROFT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**The Acting Chair (Mr Fleet):** I understand you are Dan Freymond from the Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce.

**Mr Freymond:** That is correct.

**The Acting Chair:** The next half-hour is essentially your own. You can make a presentation for as much of that time as you like. However, it is not uncommon for members of the committee to ask questions if time permits, so you may want to take that into account in making your representation to the committee. It is all yours.

**Mr Freymond:** I appreciate the opportunity to come here. I have copies of my presentation that I will pass out. I have a habit of mumbling, so you will probably wish to read along as well.

I am here today representing, as the Chairman mentioned, the Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce; our area quite often is referred to as the central and north Hastings area.

The Marmora to Lake St Peter railway line played a very important role in the development of central and north Hastings. It was originally built to assist the agriculture, mining and forest industries. Due to the poor soil conditions in a great many areas, the agriculture industry slowly phased out. The minerals were not found in large enough concentration to justify the cost of extracting them. Thus that industry too is a thing of the past. This left the lumber industry. Although it boomed for a while, in the last few years it too has experienced a slower trend, with no signs for a brighter future.

Even though these industries still exist in central and north Hastings, they do not justify 127 kilometres of railway line. Thus the length of the trains was shortened and the frequency cut back until the mid-1970s, when the trains became extinct altogether.

Since this time the railway line has been abandoned and used by whomever at his own discretion. The only maintenance on this railway line has been done by approximately 27 interested groups, according to the Dillon report. I am not sure if you are familiar with that, but it is a report that was done and different groups put submissions in if they were interested in the line. These groups were uncovered in its search for facts about turning the railway line into a recreational trail.

The Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce has been trying to develop tourism as a replacement for the aforementioned industries. A large number of tourists are attracted in the summer months to our approximately 425 lakes with excellent water conditions, our provincial parks with undisturbed nature and our rock collecting in various locations.

Our most recent task has been to promote the shoulder seasons, being the winter months. One large area of promotion has been snowmobiling, which the abandoned railway line serves as a connecting link. Gone are the days when the snowmobiler rides around in his own yard. Snowmobilers want to go somewhere. This 127-kilometre right of way serves to connect all the small hamlets in central and north Hastings, thereby



allowing travellers to get parts, gas, oil, food and accommodation along the railway line.

Sled dog racing is another sport that is becoming increasingly popular. Because of this, numerous visitors are being attracted to the area and these people are using the railway corridor.

Because of the increased tourism in the winter months in central and north Hastings, local merchants are able to maintain year-round viable businesses, with fewer layoffs during the off-season. With more advertising and promotion, this can only increase.

This corridor is also being used in the summer months for hiking, horseback riding and four-wheeling.

Many thousands of dollars have been spent studying the possibilities of the railway line being made into a recreational trail; for example, this Dillon report, the Cresap study and the north Hastings community futures plan. These last two were not just studying the railway line; they studied other things as well, but the railway line was mentioned in their submissions. All of these studies and reports came up with the same recommendations, namely, that the railway line be implemented as a recreational trail for central and north Hastings.

As a chamber of commerce, we think this trail can play a very important role in the future development of the central and north Hastings area. We strongly request that this committee recommend that it be declared a recreational trail, possibly owned by the province or the county, with the responsibility of maintaining and policing given out to the various clubs that use sections of the trail.

On this basis, we trust you will recommend that the Marmora-Lake St Peter railway line become a recreational trail to be used by residents and non-residents of central and north Hastings for many years to come.

From here on, this is an excerpt from the Dillon report listing the interested groups that put submissions to us. Then over, table 5.3, again out of that report, are the comments it made on them. The only thing I want to mention is that all these interested groups are clubs except for one, which is a corporation, Domtar Forest Products.

I believe all these groups were for the railway line becoming a recreational trail. Domtar is not actually against it. They have some concerns that I think were very viable. They wanted it to still be able to be used to take things for the forest products industry out of the bush in places that are hard to access. The railway line bed is an ideal location to bring products out through. I think that is something that is very viable as well and should be considered in this.

That is actually all I have as a presentation, but I am quite willing to attempt to answer any questions anyone might have.

**The Acting Chair:** I have a question from Mr Pollock, but if Mr Pollock does not mind I would like to pose a factual question first. I saw the references here to Domtar trying to acquire ownership. Who owns the right of way right now?

**Mr Pollock:** It is owned by CN.

First of all, I want to thank Dan Freymond for coming here to make this presentation. He raises some very interesting points. He is concerned about this abandoned railroad line, as I am. I think it should be used as a recreational trail. I just want to inform the members here that most of this abandoned railroad line goes through the Laurentian Shield. It is basically not farming country. It is fairly rough terrain. Some people even refer to them as the Huckleberry rocks, but basically it is rough country.

The Dillon report, which I have here, was commissioned by the Honourable John Eakins; it is a study done back in 1985 to actually see what the possibilities might be of this abandoned railroad line being a recreation trail.

My private member's bill has a start and a stop to it. It starts at Glen Ross and goes to Lake St Peter. The abandoned railroad line study was done from Marmora to Lake St Peter. If you look on the maps I gave you, you will find out roughly where Marmora is. It goes from there right up to Lake St Peter. Mine goes just a little farther south. I just wanted to make those comments.

**Mr Riddell:** It seems to me that an interministerial committee was established some time ago when these railway lines appeared that were going to be abandoned. There have been a number of meetings on the part of this interministerial committee to determine what the province is going to do with these railway lines. I know one of the lines the province was looking at was the line that runs from Goderich through to Guelph. I believe the decision was that the province would acquire that line. Did this committee not take into consideration the particular line we are dealing with at the present time? Do you know?

**Mr Pollock:** Do you want me to try and answer that?

**The Acting Chair:** A question is not normally put from one committee member to another, but why not?

**Mr Riddell:** I am wondering why this committee is dealing with something that the interministerial committee has been dealing with for some time; that is, the acquisition of abandoned rail lines.

**The Acting Chair:** Perhaps I can assist Mr Riddell for a moment. We are dealing with this because it is a private member's bill that Mr Pollock chose to bring forward. There are witnesses scheduled from ministries. I note that at least two of the three that were requested are listed. I am not quite sure why Transportation is not down there.

**Mr Pollock:** They declined.

**The Acting Chair:** They declined, did they? That is the technical response.

**Mr Riddell:** But as a member of this committee I would like to know whether the interministerial committee gave this line any consideration. Have they come to any decision on what they want to do with this particular line?

1610

**The Acting Chair:** I would expect that question would be put to the witnesses when they come from the ministry.

**Mr Pollock:** Just to explain and answer my colleague's question, there was an interministerial committee long before I was ever a member of this Legislature, and that was back in 1981. They studied the situation. Nothing was ever done about it. I brought this private member's bill in. Then about a year after I brought in the private member's bill, this interministerial committee was appointed. It was appointed in the fall of 1988. This private member's bill of mine came in 1987. I have asked in the House, in question period just the other day, when the report of the interministerial committee was coming out, because it was supposed to come out in June. It is not coming out in June. I have been told that.

**Mr Riddell:** To the witness, how long has this railway line been abandoned?

**Mr Freymond:** In 1975, to my recollection, was when the last trains ran.

**Mr Riddell:** So CN has not run a train over the line since that time.

**Mr Freymond:** It must have been nearly 10 years after that when the rails were actually lifted.

**Mr Pollock:** The rails were lifted in 1985, roughly.

**Mr Freymond:** Actually, I think the trains only ran once a week at the last when they did run.

**Mr Riddell:** CN still owns the property.

**Mr Freymond:** They still own the property, and in the last 15 years, snowmobilers and everybody else has used it.

**Mr Riddell:** It appears to me that in your presentation you would hope that either the province or the county would acquire the land.

**Mr Freymond:** I think that would be the ideal situation as far as the chamber is concerned.

**Mr Riddell:** I guess I still have to come back to this interministerial committee that had been sitting to decide whether it was going to acquire abandoned rail lines. Can we, as a committee, make any determination if we have no idea what the interministerial committee has decided to do? Maybe they have made the recommendation that the province acquire the land.

**Mr Freymond:** As Mr Pollock put forth, that committee has been working for quite a while and we still do not have an answer from it.

**Mr Riddell:** But that does not mean to say they are not going to. I know in my own case, in Goderich, CN agreed to leave the bridge that crosses the river. They have taken the tracks out, but they have agreed to leave the bridge and not dismantle it until such time as the interministerial committee makes a decision. I have to think that this decision has to come before too long or CN is going to move in and it is going to start taking everything down.

**Mr Freymond:** We are afraid of that, that maybe CN will decide it is tired of waiting and do something.

**Mr Riddell:** Maybe we should find out just where the interministerial committee stands on all this.

**Mr Pollock:** Just to follow up on that, my bill only deals with who would run this particular stretch of line. It does not deal with ownership of the line.

**Mr Riddell:** Until you find out who is going to own the land, how can we—

**Mr Pollock:** Basically the bill is set up so that it would be local people looking after local interests. That is basically the process or the reasoning behind the bill. I could not agree with you more. We have to find out and make a decision some day about who is going to actually own these rights of way. I can assure you that we might find out some day that CN says, "We are getting rid of them to whoever." It could be private enterprise.

**Mr Fleet:** I am very interested in this proposal. I want to commend you for coming down. I am surprised you did not talk more about Gemboree or something like that.

**Mr Freymond:** You can talk about railway lines and Jam-boree if you like. We have no complaint on that.

**Mr Fleet:** I am interested in the implication of establishing this commission. Somebody has to come up with the money and it is not clear in the bill, partly for reasons we have just heard about, who is expected to come up with the money to buy the land and what CN wants for it.

My own inclination is that when CN is giving up the advantage it was given originally, which was to run a railway, it should be giving up the land when it is in long strips like that and there is no particular advantage to the railway company. But given the current mode of operation of the federal government, I doubt very much if they are going to give up the land for the people who live there, even though they ought to. Since they are going to try to sell it, it seems reasonable to me that we have some sense of what market value CN will be attaching to this land. Do you have any information about that?

**Mr Freymond:** I believe the Dillon report covers that. The way they look at it, the main cost is going to be in some surveying costs and legal fees. I believe the Dillon report gives a figure of around \$70,000 for surveying and legal fees. In some places, all the deed says is a 66-foot right of way through lot 10, concession 4, and does not really say where it is.

**Mr Fleet:** But Domtar is saying it wants to buy land. That is what is in your proposal here.

**Mr Freymond:** Yes.

**Mr Fleet:** I am just wondering, what is it worth to Domtar? That will establish its market value in a hurry. Do we know?

**Mr Freymond:** I really do not know what Domtar would want to pay for it, no.

**Mr Fleet:** The only other comment I would have with respect to the bill itself is that it does not define in the bill the boundaries. This commission potentially would be involved with other recreational trails. Do you have a set of connections with this network that seems to be developing as to how far afield you are going to go?

**Mr Freymond:** Not really. We were looking mainly at what the Dillon report presented, as Jim said, from a little way south of Marmora to Lake St Peter. That is out of the farming area. In the farming area there is quite a concern that farmers have with people going through their farms when there are fresh crops and this kind of stuff. In the northern area we are talking bush and there is no problem there.

**Mr Lipsett:** I wanted to get a little clearer too the line for which ownership is claimed. I understand, first of all, it is the federal government. After the CN abandonment, who gets first right?

**Mr Freymond:** I believe it is the province. My understanding is that the province or the county in conjunction is offered. If they refuse, it goes to the municipalities. If the municipalities refuse, it goes to adjoining land owners and from there to ordinary people.

**Mr Lipsett:** In other words, if it comes to this and the act is to establish a commission, if indeed this commission saw fit to be the owner, it would not have a chance at it until adjacent land owners had a chance?

**Mr Freymond:** No, I believe they would come under the umbrella of the province. That is my understanding. I could be



wrong on that. This is a very unique opportunity. If this bill does not go through, there is no way you will ever make one beside it.

**Mr Lipsett:** As I understand from a shorter one that is in my riding, between Collingwood and Meaford, the five municipalities there have taken on ownership, but basically what they have done is take on liability. The cost of ownership was not a major item, I do not believe, if I recall properly, but it is the liability.

You represent the chamber of commerce. In making representation on behalf of this proposed commission, is it the intent of the commission to be the agent that would look after the liability of this asset? This one appears to be a very highly mechanized trail. I see the proponents are mainly mechanized vehicles. I am not sure where there is room for skiers on that.

**Mr Freymond:** I believe there would be room. Snowmobile clubs post their signs that there is a 50-kilometre speed limit. It is straight enough that if you were driving 50 kilometres, you would have no trouble stopping for a skier or whatever.

Regarding liability, if it were split up in sections where the natural boundaries of their snowmobile clubs are now, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs would assume the liability. The Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers drove from Bancroft north. Last year was the first year they started maintaining the trail. They carry liability insurance on that section of the trail they maintain.

1620

I might add that since they maintained it last year, the adjoining land owners have changed their opinion. Before that, land owners were always complaining that somebody ran over their prize blue spruce tree or through their tulip bed or something. It used to be that the trail was so rough that if you came to a field or a lawn or whatever, people wanted to go out on that because it was smoother. Now that the trail has been groomed in the wintertime, people stay on the trail. So it has actually worked to an advantage.

**Mr Lipsett:** Is the abandoned railway line in good condition now or is it grown over?

**Mr Freymond:** It actually is in quite good condition as far as bridges go. There is going to have to be maintenance done periodically and stuff as things come up, but the snowmobile clubs have on their own, with or without permission, done a lot of brushing and stuff on it. They fixed up washouts as beaver dams broke or whatever. I do not feel there is anything serious that has to be done. As I say, brush continues to grow, but it continually will be cut back as well.

**Mr Miller:** I think bringing the bill before this committee gives us an opportunity at least to discuss and get a feel for Ontario. There are a lot of abandoned lines and there are a lot of proposals being made like this. I am pleased that we are taking the time to take a look at it.

I am not sure whether we can deal with it under the bill that has been provided to us, but we have one going between Simcoe and Port Dover. The people want to use it for hiking, but the farmers are not too pleased. Being farmers, we can run into some problems there.

I believe the procedure, as has been explained, is that if the feds cannot make use of it, the province gets the first opportunity, then the municipality, then it goes back to the land owners if it is not picked up at that point.

We had a line through our farm that went back to 1940, and you would never know there was a line there now. It has been turned back into farm land. It was a terrible mess when we took it over, but we cleaned it up and it is back into farming.

It is kind of a shame to see all these lines being abandoned if they can be utilized, and they may be needed, maybe not this century but maybe next. When you look at the railway, I think it came in—I do not know when this one came in, probably around 1870 in that area.

**Mr Pollock:** Later than that; just before the 1900s, I think.

**Interjection:** Around the turn of the century.

**Mr Miller:** It was not even 75 years, and now it is on its way out and we are looking at other modes of transportation. That is how quickly things change.

**Mr Pollock:** It was around 100 years ago when it was first started, actually, and it took a while to get it up.

**Mr Miller:** What is the reaction of the farmers? Are the farmers satisfied with it?

**Mr Freymond:** As Mr Pollock mentioned, there is actually very little farm land along this. From Tudor and Cashel north, there are definitely no farms. I am not sure, Jim would be more familiar with Marmora. Closer to Marmora, there could be some farming in that area.

**Mr Miller:** Who is going to be responsible for fencing and maintaining drainage and that?

**Mr Freymond:** I would say in 99% of the cases, if a fence is needed, the fence is already there.

**Mr Miller:** It is there now?

**Mr Freymond:** It has been abandoned since 1975.

**Mr Miller:** So there are no fences.

**Mr Freymond:** Where fences are needed, they are there. If someone has cattle running close to it, they obviously have a fence there now. There are exceptions to that. There are some places you might have to put a fence to keep people off more than keep people on. In the majority of cases, if a fence is needed, the fence is there.

**Mr Miller:** If you are a cattle farmer, you need fencing. Is it up to the farmer to maintain all these fences, or who is responsible for providing that? As long as it was a railway, they were supposed to keep the fences up, but it was difficult to enforce that or get them to co-operate in many instances.

Again, I am just pleased that we have the opportunity of taking a look at this particular line and we will see how we can deal with it down the way.

**Mr Freymond:** In the Marmora area, does the line run along farming area?

**Mr Pollock:** There is some. As we go south into Rawdon township, there is more farm country there and there is more concern.

This particular railroad line went over the Trent Canal. There is a swing bridge over there, and there is no way they were ever going to spend the dollars to repair or fix up that swing bridge for just a recreation trip, so I started there and went north. I have not got a major hangup about where they really start. If they want to move it farther north, fine. I was told when I drafted the bill that they had to have a point of starting and a point of stopping.



On top of that, just while I am talking, just to clarify all the situation of who has the first chance to buy it, there is nothing in legislation. They say basically that there is a suggested thing; the federal government has the first chance after CN gets rid of it, then it is the province, then it is the municipality and then a local land owner. That is not legislation; that is only a suggested thing. I am sure that if somebody offered CN enough money, it would be gone tomorrow.

**Mr Miller:** How far is it from Lake Ontario?

**Mr Pollock:** It actually starts at Trenton, but I did not get down into Sidney township. That is the township south of Rawdon, if you have your map there. It pretty well starts at Trenton, but that is pretty well a builtup area. I do not know whether it is intact there or not. Actually, the south Marmora subdivision was operated not that long ago, because it took the ore from the old Marmora iron ore mine right over to Picton.

**Mr Miller:** What is the distance?

**Mr Pollock:** From Marmora to Picton?

**Mr Miller:** No, from your starting point down to Trenton.

**Mr Pollock:** It is roughly 150 kilometres from Glen Ross, which is just south of the boundary of Rawdon, as you will see on your map there. It is 150 kilometres north to about Lake St Peter. The Marmora subdivision north from Marmora north, as they usually classified that back in the days of miles, was around 90 miles.

**Mr Miller:** And from there to the lake?

**Mr Pollock:** From there to Lake Ontario I would say it would have to be 50 miles anyway. As you get down in that area, it is not in my riding. I was dealing basically with the portion of abandoned railroad that was in my riding.

**Mr Riddell:** I do not know whether there is a written law, but certainly if it is not written there is an unwritten law that the federal government has first choice, then the province, then the municipality and then the adjacent land owners. That is certainly the basis on which this interministerial committee is looking at it and basing its decision.

Let me ask you this: Is your recommendation for a recreational trail based on either provincial or municipal acquisition of the line?

**Mr Freymond:** No. We would like a recreational trail. Actually who owns it is not a concern, other than we would like local people to have some say in the actual running of it. If the federal government—

**Mr Riddell:** If it boils down that the adjacent land owners have the choice of buying the land, then what are your chances of having it turned into a recreational trail?

**Mr Freymond:** Virtually none.

**Mr Riddell:** If the province then decides that it does not want to buy the land, is the county prepared to do it?

**Mr Freymond:** I cannot speak for the county. I believe the warden of the county is here, and you will have to ask him that question at that time. I sincerely hope they are.

**The Chair:** Mr Freymond, thank you for your appearance before the committee. I am sure Mr Pollock appreciates your support. He has been unbelievably persistent in getting this matter before the committee.

**Mr Freymond:** It is quite a concern to our area and we appreciate his persistence on it.

1630

## COUNTY OF HASTINGS

**The Chair:** The next presentation is from the county of Hastings; Mr Bouma and Mr Davis. This is exhibit 2, which members should have. Gentlemen, we welcome you to the committee. If you wish to take us through your brief in one form or another, the next half-hour is yours.

**Mr Bouma:** My name is Bill Bouma, and this is the warden of our county, Bruce Davis.

The second page is just a letter stating what we have. What we have left with the clerk of the committee is a Canada Consulting Cresap report which outlined our economic and industrial master plan or guide for the next few years. I have also left a copy of the CN Dillon report. I have left a copy of the special report of county council where it made its recommendation. We also made a presentation in February 1989 to the interministerial committee, and the clerk of this committee also has a copy of that.

I will begin at the bottom of page 1.

The actions taken by James Pollock via his private member's bill are to be commended in providing a leadership position suggesting directions that the province of Ontario could follow in providing recreational opportunities for its residents along an otherwise useless corridor of land deemed to be no longer economically feasible by various railways of Canada.

Many meetings have been held at the municipal level throughout areas of Ontario. In particular in our county, when the Dillon report was undertaken, there were public meetings held at that time.

We will not go into the means of establishing the lack of usefulness of these lines or the methods used by the various railways to actually discourage usage but, rather, deal only with the option that would provide some enjoyment for Ontario residents and many tourists who would be attracted to these various sites in eastern Ontario.

In recent weeks, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has reorganized to focus more attention on the concerns of its minister relating to health matters and delivery of program opportunities to Ontario residents. Further recent releases from this same ministry call for more partnership with municipal and private sector partners to achieve growth and opportunities to ensure that tourism in Ontario remains viable and competitive.

In 1989, recognizing the importance of remaining competitive, we at Hastings county created and funded a full-time professionally staffed economic development department, as recommended in the \$80,000 consultant's report funded by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. That is the Cresap report, which I left with the clerk of the committee. In 1990 the budget of that department is over \$250,000. This should indicate our commitment to growth and increasing economic benefits for the residents of Ontario east and Hastings county.

But we cannot do it on our own; we are seeking a partnership, as requested by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

From the report of Cresap associates, which was funded by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, it was suggested that the county of Hastings should develop new leisure opportunities. This, as the report stated clearly, is a response to changing tastes, although the proliferation of certain types of developments can clearly influence tastes as the new activities

become popular. These opportunities range from the increasingly popular spa resort concept to unique special events designed to draw visitors.

One unique aspect of Hastings county is the availability of snow in winter. Many Ontario snowmobilers travel hundreds of miles to the United States to find snow, after spending an average of \$22,000 on snowmobiling equipment. That \$22,000 provides needed employment for Ontario suppliers and manufacturers of winter-oriented equipment.

Metropolitan Toronto was defined as a specific target market for Hastings county to market to. Further, it was confirmed that the northern United States was an additional market to attract people to enjoy our winters. Statistics released by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation confirm that the market from the United States has been falling off due to higher prices, taxes, gasoline costs, accommodation costs, lower quality of service and hospitality given etc.

Within any of the geographic and demographic groups within Hastings county, the attraction to outdoor recreation is of paramount importance. Marketing and products need to be tailored to these activity orientations, which should build on the county and provincial strengths in tourism.

The report went further to indicate that in north Hastings visitors are looking for a distinctly outdoor-oriented, avid and accessible wilderness experience. Typically, these visitors stay longer in the area and there is a strong family orientation. This is the type of experience the Minister of Tourism and Recreation is attempting to encourage and develop in Ontario.

In 1987 a report, also funded by the government of Ontario, was commissioned by Dillon consulting engineers to deal with the CN railway line recreational feasibility study. One of their key findings was that the development of the recreational corridor would appear to be advantageous to Ontario and the county of Hastings as a means of encouraging further recreational and tourism activity in the area.

At that time, estimates suggested that the cost of developing the facility could be recovered through incremental revenues and economic benefits in the county over a 5- to 14-year period. Thereafter, a special committee of Hastings county concluded that the county could simply not afford to own and manage the trail, and the following was recommended:

"That option 11.5 as contained on page 84 of the Dillon report be amended to read as follows: 'Crown ownership, county and trail association management, be the position of this county in its approach to the province of Ontario to have this abandoned rail line retained in public ownership for recreational and tourism trail purposes.'"

Further, the majority of existing trail users had expressed a desire to develop a multi-use facility. The multi-use concept may be possible if properly managed and policed, and if adequate signage is provided and educational measures undertaken. Multi-use included, but was not limited to, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle and cycle trail riding, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, walking, snowshoeing, special events—for example, dog sled races—and access to hunting, fishing, trapping and logging areas.

Both consultants' reports, Cresap and M. M. Dillon, towards which the province of Ontario has provided \$140,000, indicate a viable need for and economic return from the railway right of way development if a partnership with the province is established.

We in Hastings county feel that the proposal submitted as a private member's bill by Mr Pollock represents such an opportunity, especially when taken in step with the recommendations

as we outlined in February 1989. That is a partnership that will work, in our opinion, and will not unduly force financial hardship on small municipalities or rural-based counties in eastern Ontario.

We will leave today a copy of the brief submitted to the interministerial committee for recommending acquisition of abandoned railway right of way deemed to be in the public interest. Further, we will leave a copy of the report of the special committee of Hastings county council dated November 1987 that dealt with an analysis of the disposition of the Marmora-Lake St Peter abandoned rail line.

Without taking too much of your time today, we just highlight for the members some of the contents in the brief submitted in 1989.

The history since the abandonment: The Canadian Transport Commission approved CN's abandonment application in 1982. At that time, CN authorized the removal of the tracks and other railway facilities along the corridor. This work was completed in 1984.

Once the right of way was cleared of its tracks, local residents began utilizing the vacant corridor for such recreational activities as snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle and cycle trail riding, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, walking, hiking, hunting etc. The corridor also attracted non-recreational users, including logging companies to access woodlots and individuals to access private property. Such informal recreational and non-recreational use of the railway right of way, while recognized as trespassing, still occurs today.

In 1985 the province was given the opportunity to buy the Marmora subdivision, along with several other abandoned railway corridors in Ontario. As a basis for evaluating the offer, the province, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Transportation, undertook an overview study to determine the advantages of acquiring these rights of way for various activities, including recreation. The study concluded that several rights of way, including the Marmora one, appeared to be suitable for recreation.

Since the report was completed, MNR, in a letter dated 1 April 1986, indicated that the province would not be willing to acquire the rights of way on a comprehensive basis. However, an earlier letter dated 22 October 1985 indicated that certain lines, including the Marmora subdivision, were considered priority corridors and could be considered for provincial funding in the future.

My understanding, as far as that interministerial committee is concerned, is that the Marmora-Lake St Peter line is still on hold. They have not made a firm decision on it, and I think the main reason is that MNR is seriously interested in keeping this line open.

In 1989, CN offered its Lake St Peter line to the county of Hastings in accordance with the Railway Act. Prior to responding to the offer, the county, in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, commissioned this study to investigate the feasibility of converting the corridor into a recreational trail. Various options of ownership, insurance, liability, maintenance, management, policing and control and safety were presented.

1640

This high incidence of out-of-county use reflects the importance of recreation as a primary reason for visiting Hastings county. A long-term community economic development strategy now being prepared to provide goals and directions in Hastings county for the next five years will focus on the vast benefits of increasing our share of the tourism pie in eastern



Ontario, in co-operation with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

The availability of the Marmora-Lake St Peter recreational corridor under crown ownership will aid all of us in eastern Ontario to successfully promote the trail attractions in the northern United States, Quebec and Toronto markets.

In summary, the county of Hastings would again like to commend Jim Pollock for his private member's Bill 67, which will provide a valuable opportunity for the province to spearhead and illustrate the necessary leadership via an act to establish an East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission.

I thank the members for their most appreciated time today and await a positive decision in the near future for the benefit of all residents of Ontario.

Attached is a letter from the North Hastings Community Futures Program. They quote different sections from different reports. They quote a section from the Dillon report, from the Peterborough-Haliburton tourism development strategy, from our own Cresap report and then from the community plan for North Hastings, North Hastings Community Futures Committee 1990. The last page, page 3, is the most important part of that, and I will read that. It is called "Partners in Development."

"The abovementioned studies established the interest of the county of Hastings, the Hastings municipalities, the North Hastings Community Futures Committee and the community of North Hastings in developing the CN rail corridor as a recreation trail.

"The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has also indicated its openness to discussions about trail development, in view of the employment development programs which are at its disposal.

"In fact, a first exploratory meeting has been scheduled for early in July, at which the Community Futures Committee, the Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce and Employment and Immigration Canada will meet to discuss this issue.

"At a time when North Hastings is again suffering the economic impact of industrial closures (G. W. Martin Lumber Ltd), an initiative to work at the development of the CN rail corridor is timely and practical."

Your honour, I do not know whether you want to add anything to that Community Futures letter.

**Warden Davis:** If I may, gentlemen, I thank you for inviting us here. Maybe if I could speak a little further on the recreation, on snowmobiling. I know the snowmobile club, the Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers, could not be here. I had contact with the president and the vice-president today. I know the way things are. They both have jobs and they say, "If I'm not there today, I won't have one tomorrow." That is the sole reason they could not be here.

I am the past president of the Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers. I have been the past president for 11 years. I was president and was actually the one who formed it, so I think with that I should be able to give you some information on the snowmobile club part of it too.

It is identified in the long-term strategic planning of the county of Hastings as a necessary part of our plan to include that as a recreational trail. It is there, it is a needed thing and it would be very sad if it were taken away from us. The snowmobile club and the Old Hastings Snow Riders work together in maintaining that club and the railroad line.

Since that maintenance has taken place, as the previous speaker has said, the complaints have really fallen off. Land owners now are part of the trail system, as are members of the general public who use it. They have not been complainers;

they have become participants, which is nice to see. But from the county's point of view, again, the long-term strategic plan identified it as a major part of our tourism, as a needed thing.

**The Chair:** I do not know whether you are aware of it or not, but scheduled to appear on Wednesday are the Old Hastings Snow Riders. I do not know whether that means Hastings is old or the snow riders are old, but I assume they are snow-machiners.

**Warden Davis:** It is a snowmobile club.

**The Chair:** So the committee will be hearing from a snowmobile club.

**Warden Davis:** Yes. My understanding is that Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers cannot be here, though.

**The Chair:** Right. As a matter of interest, on page 7 of your brief, I am a little confused about the sequence of events here. You state that in 1985, when the province was given the opportunity to get involved, to buy the property, it commissioned a study which concluded that the Marmora trail was suitable for recreation. Then you say that in 1985 a letter indicated it was a priority corridor and could be considered for provincial funding. Did that flow from that study? I am confused, and if I have confused you too, then I have company.

**Mr Bouma:** The study came after those particular items of correspondence. What is the date of the Dillon report?

**The Chair:** The reason I asked was that then you said that in 1986 a letter indicated the province would not be willing to acquire the right of way. I was a little confused about the sequence of events.

**Mr Bouma:** That is right. We were confused too. We have two pieces of correspondence in our file at the county. One states that the Ministry of Natural Resources is in favour and the other one states that it is not. I guess basically the province got involved again after we did the Dillon report when the interministerial committee was set up. They really did not make a final decision on it.

**Mr Pollock:** I want to thank the administrator, Bill Bouma, and His Honour the warden for coming here and making this presentation. I know how concerned they are and I appreciate their making the efforts to join us here today. I might just inform the rest of the committee that the former Minister of Natural Resources flew down to Trenton at one particular time, I joined him and we flew all along the line on the one side of this particular line back past Bancroft and more or less surveyed it from the air.

As I say, it is not as if this has just come out of nowhere. We have had this Dillon report. There has been that kind of study and there have been all kinds of petitions circulated in regard to this particular abandoned railroad line. As it is mentioned in this particular report, once again, unemployment in the Bancroft area is on the increase, and recreation trails like this would help to stimulate the tourist business in that particular area. As I say, I am hoping something can be done about this.

1650

**Mr Riddell:** As I understand it, your preference would be provincial acquisition of this abandoned line and establishment of a trails commission which would then manage the line for recreational purposes and, I trust, assume any liability. Failing provincial acquisition—I guess I will put my question to you



people—is the county prepared to acquire this land and then turn it over to the trails commission to manage?

If that is going to be too much of a burden, then as I read this explanatory note, "The bill establishes the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission that may purchase property in eastern and central Ontario in order to establish recreational trails." If the province does not feel that it wants to purchase it and the county feels it cannot purchase it, then is this trails commission, if it were granted the authority, prepared to buy the land?

**Warden Davis:** If that commission had the authority of the province of Ontario to purchase land, I am not sure where it would get its money from.

**Mr Riddell:** So really it all hinges on whether the province is prepared to buy the land, or the county. Are you people prepared to say at this time whether you would be interested in purchasing the land if the province decides it is not interested?

**Warden Davis:** We are not in a position to say yes. The voice of the council is that we would recommend that the province of Ontario purchase the land. That is the position of county council. I cannot say, "Yes, we would buy it." I do not have that authority.

**Mr Riddell:** Have you got any vibes at all from the interministerial committee that has been studying all these abandoned lines right across the province whether indeed they might be looking seriously at picking up this particular line?

**Warden Davis:** Yes.

**Mr Bouma:** The way I understand it is that MNR feels it is a valid line to do something with. That is the holdup as far as the interministerial committee is concerned.

**Mr Riddell:** I do not personally see anything wrong with establishing this commission then.

**The Chair:** Let me get this straight. Are you suggesting the commission could be established without funding, simply be established, and then have the lobbying for funding done afterwards? Is that how you would see it, Mr Pollock?

**Mr Pollock:** It is my understanding that if you have a private member's bill, you cannot set dollar figures in there but basically you can just set regulations and that sort of thing.

To explain why it is in there that the commission would have the right to purchase other property, there is a spur line from this particular rail line going into Coe Hill. Who knows—once again, it is through rough land—they might at some point in time want to purchase that particular spur line. I would imagine they would sell it for little or nothing, but it was hoped that with the bill the province would be the one that would actually own the abandoned railroad, the Marmora subdivision, basically.

**The Chair:** Maybe, Mr Riddell, when you have finished looking at the commercial fishery, you could have a look at this.

**Mr Riddell:** Everything is based on assumptions.

**The Chair:** That is right.

**Mr Riddell:** It sounds to me like the establishment of this commission is based on the assumption that the province will acquire the land.

**Mr Pollock:** I did not say that in there. I did not want to exclude the county if the county so wished. Once again, I could

not speak for the county and I cannot even speak for the local municipalities. That is their jurisdiction.

**Mr Riddell:** I guess I come back to Mr Laughren's question. Does this committee go ahead and recommend that a commission be established when we have no idea who is going to buy the land?

**Mr Fleet:** Your logic has never stopped legislation before.

**Mr Pollock:** I just believed that a commission like this was the best route to go to more or less be the overseer if there were some party that would pick up the ownership of the land. It was local people looking after local interests. That was the basis behind the bill.

**Mr Fleet:** It seems reasonable to some of us, anyway.

**The Chair:** If the interministerial committee had been available for today, we could have had it first—it probably would have been more appropriate—but it was not.

**Warden Davis:** If I may, I think the county is very interested in helping to manage it as that part of our economic development. The dollars and cents to purchase it we just do not have, but part of the management, again, with the group of recreational committees that there are in the county, I am sure would benefit the snowmobile clubs, the horse riding clubs and the dog sleds. The dog sleds are a big thing and they use that line. It would be part of the recreation management that I am sure the county would be interested in, along with the government, as a team.

**Mr Miller:** What about the other counties? Have you had any discussion with the adjoining counties to see if they would be interested in extending it down to Lake Ontario, to Trenton?

**Warden Davis:** That line comes all the way within the county.

**Mr Miller:** It comes right to the lake from—

**Warden Davis:** Yes.

**Mr Miller:** Within the county?

**Warden Davis:** I am wrong, I am sorry. It would go into Prince Edward county to go to Lake Ontario.

**Mr Pollock:** The Marmora subdivision runs basically from Pictou all the way right back through there, and that is all through Prince Edward county, up through Sidney township, which is still Hastings county, right all the way the full length of Hastings county.

**Mr Miller:** Is Lake St Peter in Hastings county too?

**Mr Pollock:** Yes.

**Mr Bouma:** The section of that particular right of way from Pictou to whatever is in Prince Edward county. I think they are going through the abandonment process now. Hearings are going on now at the federal level.

**Mr Pollock:** Maybe you people can answer this question. In talking about this over the years, the liability question always comes up; who is going to be liable and how much is it going to cost? Can you people fill me in on anything along that line? Have you heard anything about other counties? I understand that in Victoria county they have taken over one particular abandoned railroad up there. I know that some small municipalities have taken up sections of abandoned railroads.

**Mr Bouma:** Liability was a big problem. I think that is probably why we are stressing county management as opposed to county ownership. We have checked with our insurance company, of course, as far as liability goes. They say our liability costs will probably not be a lot at the beginning, but all you have to have happen is maybe one particular incident. As far as Victoria county is concerned, they just purchased that just a little while ago, so I really do not know what their experience is.

**The Chair:** Mr Bouma and Mr Davis, we thank you very much for coming and making your presentation to the committee.

Interjection.

**The Chair:** Yes, there is going to be a vote, and then I believe the Legislature is adjourning early today because of Mr Mandela's visit.

Can we determine before we leave here today what to do about Wednesday? I gather we cannot get hold of the groups that are to appear on Wednesday. I am hesitant to leave it until tomorrow, which is Tuesday; we can, I suppose, but it is late for them as well.

**Mr Fleet:** When the clerk advised me earlier that neither of the two out-of-town presenters could be contacted this afternoon, I spoke with all the members who were here on the committee and it is my understanding—in particular now, I am referring to Mr Pollock—that everybody here is amenable to doing it either way but that on balance it seems to be more appropriate if we could put over the hearing until Monday, with the understanding that if for any reason either of the two out-of-town people cannot get here Monday we may end up doing some or all, but on Wednesday, hopefully not—

**The Chair:** The following Wednesday.

**Mr Fleet:** The following Wednesday, yes. That is a possibility. It leaves everything open on Wednesday so everybody can be part of the Meech Lake debate, as much as he so chooses.

**The Chair:** Mr Pollock, does that meet with your approval?

**Mr Pollock:** That sounds fine with me. I do not want to speak for these people as to whether they can come in or not, but I know they are very interested in being here. I am sure they are going to want the full committee here to hear their comments and discuss their concerns.

**Mr Riddell:** As a former assistant agriculture representative in Hastings county, I know how understanding the people are there. They are always willing to co-operate, and I am sure they will in this case, but my personal preference is that we be in the House when the Meech Lake discussion takes place, because if indeed there is any thought of draining Meech Lake, I want to put a plug in for the Big "O" tile company, which manufactures in my riding.

**Mr Fleet:** It's "sink or swim" time.

**The Chair:** That clinches the argument then. We will not meet this Wednesday; we will, rather, meet next Monday. On Monday there are three presentations, so it will be a very full day. I suppose at the end of those presentations, if there is time to move on to clause-by-clause, we could, if that is suitable to the committee.

**Mr Pollock:** You said three presentations. I actually thought there were four. There are two people coming from the area and then the two ministries.

**The Chair:** Yes, but they are together; joint.

**Mr Fleet:** Is it not good to see the government getting its act together, Jim?

**The Chair:** Let's not read too much into this, Mr Fleet. The committee is adjourned until next Monday afternoon at 3:30.

The committee adjourned at 1701.

## CONTENTS

Monday 18 June 1990

<b>Organization</b> . . . . .	R-1261
<b>East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission Act, 1989</b> . . . . .	R-1261
Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce . . . . .	R-1261
County of Hastings . . . . .	R-1265
<b>Adjournment</b> . . . . .	R-1269

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

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 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)  
 Riddell, Jack (Huron L)  
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)  
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

**Substitutions:**

Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) for Mr Dietsch  
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC) for Mr Harris

**Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn



2001  
213  
576



R-28 1990

R-28 1990

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 34th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 25 June 1990

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 34<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 25 juin 1990

### Standing committee on resources development

East/Central Ontario Recreational  
Trails Commission Act, 1989

### Comité permanent du développement des ressources

Loi de 1989 sur la Commission  
des pistes de loisirs de l'est et du  
centre de l'Ontario



Chair: Floyd Laughren  
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Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears at the back, together with a list of committee members and other members taking part.

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La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste des membres du comité et des autres députés ayant participé.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Monday 25 June 1990

The committee met at 1650 in committee room 1.

### EAST/CENTRAL ONTARIO RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMISSION ACT, 1989 (continued)

Consideration of Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission.

**The Chair:** I appreciate the fact that the members are here on such short notice. I know it has been a crazy day. May I make a suggestion that, in view of the fact that it is almost 5 o'clock and in view of the fact that the gentlemen who were here earlier have had a chance to meet informally with some members of the committee, we ask those gentlemen to identify themselves and who they represent and present their brief in writing to us and at that point we move on to the interministerial committee? Is there agreement by the committee we do that? We have their documents, so that way we can get on with the interministerial committee. Gentlemen, would you introduce yourselves for the record?

### OLD HASTINGS SNOW RIDERS; MARMORA SLED DOG RACE COMMITTEE

**Mr Hadley:** I am Ron Hadley from Belleville and I represent the Old Hastings Snow Riders. Our club is in Hastings county.

**Mr Drummond:** My name is Bob Drummond from Marmora. I am here helping represent the Marmora Sled Dog Race Committee.

**Mr Bradley:** I am Norm Bradley from Marmora and I am with the Marmora Snowfest, representing sled dog racing as well.

**The Chair:** I think you know we have your briefs and they will be distributed to members of the committee, if that has not already been done. I should not let you go without saying how your member, Mr Pollock, has persevered in this matter through many hurdles to get this bill before the committee. We regret many of the obstacles that we have had to get over to arrive at this point, but we appreciate very much the fact that you were able to make it today, so thank you very much.

### INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ALTERNATIVE USES FOR ABANDONED RAILWAY RIGHTS OF WAY

**The Chair:** We should move now to the interministerial committee. We have here Norm Mealing from the interministerial committee. He is with the Ministry of Transportation. Perhaps, Mr Mealing, if you would introduce your colleagues, we could proceed.

**Mr Mealing:** With me are Bryan Howard from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Uwe Sehmrau from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

I am here as chairman of the interministry co-ordinating committee on alternative uses for abandoned railway rights of

way and it would be my intention to provide to the committee some background, some indication of where we as an interministry committee are, and also some of the things that the committee sees as happening in the future.

By way of background, there are some 1,800 kilometres of abandoned railway rights of way in Ontario, some of which were abandoned as far back as the 1930s. Prior to 1987, to abandon a service a railway required the approval of the rail transport committee of the Canadian Transport Commission. Once that approval was given, the railway was free to dispose of its surplus property and normally did so according to an unofficial, informal protocol which offered the property for sale to, first, the federal government, second, the provincial government, third, municipal governments, fourth, adjacent land owners and, fifth, other interested parties.

Prior to 1987, if an abandoned right of way was offered to the province, the Ministry of Transportation would determine through consultation with the appropriate ministries if the province wished to acquire the right of way. If the answer was in the positive, the interested ministry would negotiate directly with the railway. If the answer was in the negative, the Ministry of Transportation would advise the railway that it was not exercising its place in the protocol.

In 1987, the federal government enacted a revised National Transportation Act, which, among other things, replaced the Canadian Transport Commission with the National Transportation Agency and made the process of abandonment easier and faster. Because branch lines in western Canada were protected under separate legislation until the year 2000, the abandonment of branch lines in eastern Canada and in particular Ontario was accelerated by the 1987 legislation. To respond to this circumstance, the Ministry of Transportation undertook to broaden its powers for acquisition of abandoned rights of way to include all potential transportation uses, not just provincial highways.

During the course of this policy review, which took place in the first half of 1988, public interest in abandoned railway rights of way increased significantly and, as a result, the interministerial co-ordinating committee on alternative uses for abandoned railway rights of way was established in the fall of 1988.

The interministerial co-ordinating committee is chaired by the Ministry of Transportation and involves 12 ministries, most notably Natural Resources, Tourism and Recreation, Housing, Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Food. The committee's mandate is as follows: To co-ordinate the consideration of possible provincial acquisition of present and future abandoned railway rights of way and to provide a focus for public consultation and interaction with respect to abandoned railway rights of way.

The committee has no specific funding for nor does it have the power to acquire abandoned rights of way. The committee will recommend or endorse acquisition by the appropriate ministry according to the programs of that ministry and the government processes for the acquisition of property.

Beginning in January 1989, the committee initiated a process of receiving proposals from interested groups for the acquisition of particular rights of way. To date, the committee



has received 10 applications covering 10 abandoned railway rights of way.

In evaluating any proposal, the committee attempts to satisfy a number of criteria, including the proposed use, the impacts of that use, local municipal reaction, the position of the adjacent land owners and the ability of the applicant to sustain the operation and maintenance costs associated with the proposed use. In its evaluation, the committee relies on the advice and guidance of the ministry that is most involved in a program sense with the proposed use.

To date, the committee has endorsed the acquisition by the Ministry of Transportation of the abandoned CN right of way running between Smiths Falls and Strathcona. It has endorsed the acquisition by the Ministry of Natural Resources of major portions of the abandoned CN right of way between Parry Sound and the townships immediately east of Algonquin Park.

The committee has deferred decision on the following abandoned rights of way to allow for local government consideration and possible acquisition: the CP right of way between Elora and Cataract, the CN between Penetanguishene and Caldwell and the CN between Simcoe and Port Dover.

It has not endorsed the acquisition of the following rights of way on the basis that the province had already passed its place in the protocol and the local governments had initiated acquisition on behalf of the adjacent land owners: CN between Cambridge and Lynden and the portions of the CN Parry Sound to Renfrew line that lie within Renfrew county.

It is still reviewing the following abandoned railway rights of way as candidates for potential provincial acquisition: the CN Lindsay to Peterborough, CN Peterborough to Lakefield, CN Peterborough to Hastings, CN Marmora to Lake St Peter and the CP Goderich to Guelph.

To date, the committee has largely confined its attention to reviewing rights of way that were abandoned prior to or immediately following the passage of the National Transportation Act in 1987. We anticipate that the number of abandonments will increase over the next few years and to address this the committee has initiated a process of research and consultation in an effort, first, to catalogue the experience elsewhere—and there is a considerable body of experience in the United States and Great Britain—and to set more specific parameters for the future work of the committee. That process, it is my expectation, will be concluded by the fall of this year.

Those are my comments. I would now turn over to Bryan Howard from MNR.

**Mr Howard:** In the interests of brevity, I have summarized our ministry's position in a few bullet points. I do have copies of these here, if you would be interested in having those passed around to members of the committee.

My first comments will deal with our ministry's position on the issue of abandoned railway corridors in general and then I will make a few comments on the specific proposal, Bill 67.

The first comment is that our ministry wishes to continue to play an important role on the interministerial committee, which we believe is doing important work in developing a provincial strategy for dealing with alternative uses and development proposals of these abandoned corridors.

Second, as a ministry we will examine and develop all of our ministry program interests, such as recreational trails, wildlife management corridors, forest access roads and the possible role of conservation authorities as implementation agencies in those portions of the province where authorities exist.

1700

Third, new provincial funding would be required to enable the Ministry of Natural Resources to acquire and manage directly high-priority abandoned corridors to achieve ministry program interests. In the past there has been considerable discussion, as recently as four or five years ago, about our ministry directly taking on a package of corridors. At that time, because there was not sufficient funding within our ministry, we were unable to proceed forward and the proposal was not realized.

Fourth, in keeping with the document MNR Strategic Directions, published in October 1989, the Ministry of Natural Resources would seek and encourage partnership arrangements with other public agencies, private sector organizations, interest and user groups and individuals in order to protect abandoned rail corridors in priority locations.

Finally, the ministry would keep and maintain close liaison with the president and directors of the new Ontario Trails Council in the preparation of the trails council's strategic plan for an integrated trail system in Ontario.

Those are our comments generally.

With reference to the specific bill, in consultation with our field staff in the Algonquin region operating out of Huntsville, which covers most of the area of this line, the long-term importance of maintaining the Marmora to Lake St Peter line in public ownership is certainly recognized. That is I think the unanimous opinion of our field people in both the district and the regional offices of the ministry.

Second, no final decision should be made on this specific line until cabinet has developed an overall provincial strategy for alternative uses of abandoned railway corridors, based on recommendations prepared by the interministerial committee which Mr Mealing chairs. As Mr Mealing mentioned, it is hoped that those recommendations could be ready by September. There has been a consultant's report with some recommendations and the committee has to deal with that over the summer. So we feel that this specific line should not be dealt with in isolation but should be considered as part of the overall provincial strategy.

Third, the province, through the interministerial committee, should encourage a partnership approach involving the county of Hastings, local municipalities and private interest groups to develop and manage this abandoned railway line as a greenway corridor linking southern Hastings county with Lake St Peter Provincial Park, Algonquin Provincial Park and the Sequin trail, which runs basically from Parry Sound to Algonquin Park. There would seem to be a lot of tourism, economic and recreational opportunities which could bring some prosperity to that part of north Hastings county and certainly would be in the community interest to pursue. So those are our points in a nutshell.

**The Chair:** Just before we go to other members, I had a question for you on your final three points on Bill 67, Mr Pollock's bill. The third point there sounds an awful lot like a recommendation, so would we be reading too much into it to see that as one of the recommendations that will in all probability go to the powers that be in September?

**Mr Howard:** Yes. Our ministry has always been involved, along with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, in working with the county of Hastings and some of the local groups. There has been discussion, as Mr Pollock has been aware, for four or five years that he has probably been directly involved in. So this is sort of building on that theme that a local consortium should

be developed of both government and private individuals locally. Then I think the appropriate government ministries can work with that local group. That is really what we are getting at, and that would be a recommendation from our ministry.

**Mr Fleet:** I wondered where that partnership idea came from.

**The Chair:** I do not know.

**Mr Riddell:** I certainly agree with Bryan, and I think I have been making this point right from day one since this committee sat on this bill, and that is, perhaps there is a certain redundancy to us sitting and discussing this specific line when there has been a committee that has been saddled with the responsibility of developing an overall provincial strategy for alternative uses of abandoned railway corridors. I just cannot see this committee sitting and getting all kinds of input into this specific line when we really have no idea where the committee is going, this interministerial committee that has been established. I guess that is the reason you are here, and I could not agree with you more.

I guess my question is, have you any idea what it would cost to acquire these abandoned rail lines? You talked about 1,800 kilometres. I do not know how much would be of any value for recreational purposes.

I happen to be one who believes that this land should be acquired and should be used for recreational purposes, which of course would draw tourists into the country, which we certainly want to see, and if indeed we are headed down the road to a four-day workweek, which is quite possible, then somehow we are going to have to provide for all the leisure time that people are going to have. This government certainly has been advocating for some time now recreation and fitness and all the rest of it, and, boy, I happen to believe that these abandoned lines run through some pretty nice country that would lend itself ideally to recreation, whether it be snowmobiling or cross-country skiing or dog sledding or whatever the case may be.

Very much in my mind is the line from Goderich to Guelph. I would hope that when you are considering that, you are also considering the part of the line that falls within the town of Goderich proper. There is a bridge there that has historic significance. It runs over the Maitland River. It was known to be the longest bridge of its kind, I guess at that time. I do not know; maybe it still is.

I agree completely with this partnership approach. If you are going to acquire the line between Goderich and Guelph, then for goodness sake acquire the line within the town of Goderich and then enter into a leasing arrangement with the town of Goderich for whatever use it wants to make of that particular line. But I do not see any point in going, say, from the edge of Guelph to the edge of Goderich, wherever that may be, and I guess the edge of Goderich, if that is what you are talking about, is right halfway in the Maitland River, where half of the bridge is over the Maitland and the other half is on the town side of Maitland.

I am a strong advocate of provincial acquisition of these abandoned lines for recreational purposes, because I think we are going to have to prepare for it in the future, and then enter into some kind of a leasing arrangement, preferably with the county or the municipal councils that would have some involvement, being that it is in their particular jurisdiction.

I am not convinced that we should be entering into an agreement with some kind of a recreational association, because it could be here today and gone tomorrow and where are we? Likewise in Mr Pollock's bill he talks about some kind of a

commission, which I think could be here today and gone tomorrow.

I think we have to look at it from a much broader perspective, and if we are going to acquire these lands, then have some kind of a crown corporation or some structure that is going to have some permanency to it take control of these abandoned lines and enter into agreements with the municipalities as to who is going to assume liability. I think the municipalities are prepared to do that, from what I can understand.

Who is going to maintain the bridge across the Maitland River? I think here you will get a lot of co-operation from the municipalities, but the fact of the matter is, they do not have the money to put up at this time to acquire it, but I am sure they are prepared to enter into a leasing arrangement.

As a matter of fact, I just spoke to the mayor of Goderich today and I asked if she would be interested. She said, "I'm certainly going to take that proposal to council tomorrow and I'll get back to you." I would be awfully surprised if they did not decide that they are quite prepared to enter into a leasing arrangement with the government if it acquires the land. But are we talking a big cost? Would it cost much to acquire these abandoned lands, or are the railway companies just damned glad to be getting out from under them?

1710

**Mr Mealing:** I think the answer is that it depends entirely on where the land is. The Goderich to Guelph right of way running from the city limits of Goderich to the city limits of Guelph is roughly 119 kilometres, and the appraisal that has been put on that land for us by the Ministry of Government Services would indicate that it would be \$1.2 million to acquire that right of way. Unofficially the railway, CP, has indicated it would be looking to \$1.9 million. Should negotiations ensue, my sense is that it would be less than the \$1.2 million but it would still be substantial.

As far as Marmora-Lake St Peter is concerned, there was a study commissioned by the county of Hastings which resulted in a price of between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for this particular right of way. Unofficially again, talking to CN, what it put on the table is considerably less, about \$50,000. We do know that the right of way that runs north from Stouffville through Uxbridge out to Lindsay is likely to be abandoned and could conceivably be offered to the province. Given the particular location, my sense is that the price would be substantial. Again, it depends on how close it is to major built-up areas and how active the province's interest looks to be.

When we first started on this exercise, it was my sense that the railways took all these rights of way from the debit side of their ledger and put them in on the asset side because it looked like they were going to have a buyer, whereas in a lot of cases, as you well know, they have not had buyers. They have had to go to the adjacent land owners and they have had to sever the land and do all those sorts of things, which are very costly.

**Mr Riddell:** That is just the point. They can set whatever price they want, but if they do not have a buyer, then the price means absolutely nothing. That is why I think we can do some pretty hard negotiating with the railway company and say: "Look, let's not kid ourselves. You don't have a buyer other than us, so let's be reasonable about this." I think if you play hardball, you will find that you will probably pick these lines up for a song because, as I say, every day that the railway companies have these lines, they are costing them money, as you well know. They would dearly like to get out from under that.



**Mr Mealing:** In the case of the Smiths Falls to Strathcona line, where the negotiations are under way and have been under way for some considerable period of time, we went in with an approximate price of \$200,000 for a line that was about 130 kilometres long. The last I heard from the negotiations is that we will not be far off that price. In that case there is another interested buyer. Bell Canada has indicated an interest in the line for communication cables, fibre optic cables.

But I agree with you, sir, and I think the negotiation of the first significant one that we acquire will be pretty hard. But I think at the bottom of the line, we may well be the only people who want to buy a right of way.

**Mr Pollock:** You might be the only people who want to buy the whole right of way, but I know there are some land owners there who want a chunk of that land in certain places.

**Mr Mealing:** But as I was explaining to Mr Riddell, the difficulty with that is, in order to get that chunk of land, the railways have to sever it, they have to go through all the various things that are associated with severing land, the Planning Act and all those things. They would like to unload it as a parcel. That is basically where they are coming from.

**Mr Pollock:** I am sure they would.

**Mr Mealing:** As a matter of fact, in Bromley township or one of the townships in Renfrew county, the township took the decision to acquire the land on behalf of the adjacent land owners, went and purchased it in total, and it is now faced with exactly the same problems that the railways were faced with, which is all that severance and all those details.

**Mr Pollock:** They have the same problem in Huntingdon township too. That is not this particular abandoned railroad we are talking about, but it is another one, the old Madoc spur line. Half those people in the south end of the township are farmers and they want the land back. The north half wants it a recreation trail.

**Mr Mealing:** It is interesting, because one of the things we seek from the people who are coming to deal with this is some assurance that they have taken the time to deal with the adjacent land owners. Mr Riddell will be aware that on the particular right of way between Goderich and Guelph there was a local group that sprang up, basically centred in Blyth, which had a strong opposition to this being acquired by a trail group. Subsequently, they have changed their position in that they would support acquisition by the province in the sense that the province would then provide some guarantee that if it were used for a trail, there would be some control exercised over it.

The other difficulty we have, and why we are always running into difficulty with adjacent land owners, is that normally the railways, when they abandon, take up the lines and leave. They do not really put in place barriers which prevent access from roads and that sort of thing, so you get a lot of uses in there, primarily four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles and stuff like that. I can understand that adjacent land owners have a real problem with it.

**Mr Miller:** Have we bought any rights of way? Are any of them finalized?

**Mr Mealing:** The acquisitions by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the line running out from Parry Sound to Algonquin Park and through the park have been finalized. There was an acquisition of a subdivision in northern Ontario, again by

MNR, for a resource road, which has been finalized. The other ones that I mentioned are all in various stages of negotiations.

**Mr Pollock:** What about the one between Port Dover and Simcoe?

**Mr Mealing:** The last I heard is that the regional municipality had indicated it wanted to pursue acquisition, so the committee has backed off that one to allow it to exercise that option. We will have to wait and see how far it gets.

**Mr Howard:** That is being looked at as a potential utility corridor and recreational trail combined. I guess the multiple-use aspect of these corridors is something we should stress. We should not just look at them as recreational trails. In a lot of cases, in fact, they can be used for three or four uses simultaneously. That is a good example.

**Mr Miller:** In the city of Nanticoke a member of the council at one point in time wanted a right of way in Port Dover. A lot of that property is owned and leased back over many years, the same way as downtown Toronto. Now I understand it has been evaluated by the CNR and is being offered for sale to the leaseholders. They have been trying to get that under control for a long while. It is good land, but it certainly has gone up in value. I think it depends on where the land is located. You are saying again that for this particular line, which Mr Pollock's bill refers to, \$250,000—

**Mr Mealing:** Well, anywhere from \$50,000 to \$200,000. That is a pretty big range, I realize. The discussions that I had with CN directly are now about a year old. They talked about \$50,000. The report that was prepared for Hastings county put a figure of about \$200,000 on it.

**Mr Pollock:** That is this report.

**Mr Mealing:** Yes, the Dillon report.

**Mr Pollock:** That line that runs from Parry Sound to the east side of Algonquin Park, you mentioned that MNR has picked that up. Did MNR pick it up basically for forest access roads and service along that line?

**Mr Howard:** I should explain. That has not been picked up recently, although some small sections have been consolidated recently. Most of that was purchased in the early 1970s, when dollars were a little bit more available. It was largely picked up as a year-round recreational trail, obviously a snowmobile trail in the winter months.

1720

That is roughly the portion that is owned and it is called the Seguin trail. That is operated by our ministry in co-operation with local snowmobile clubs. Probably some of you fellows have used it. Also, to the east of Algonquin Park there have been some sections acquired—I do not believe they are shown on that map—around Opeongo and upper Madawaska. Those are tied in with waterway parks. The route through Algonquin Park is largely owned by the public, of course, but it is not open because the bridges have been pretty well allowed to decay. Potentially though it could carry on as one trail. So it was largely bought for recreational purposes and not for road access.

**Mr Pollock:** It is my understanding that in certain cases there, where there are abutting land owners of some of these trails—and these are situations that have existed down in the United States—garbage, that sort of thing, gets thrown over the fence on the local land owners, but now they have actually had



cleanup operations every spring to try to compensate for that. Apparently it is working rather well.

**Mr Howard:** Yes. Mr Mealing mentioned that when the railway is abandoned at first, of course, CP or CN does not look after it as it did when it was a railway. That is when you get four-wheel drives and people coming in, using the line and getting on to people's farms and causing damage. But when you get, say, an agreement with a trail club to manage the line or develop some kind of trail and use starts to occur, then these problems disappear, because most of the trail users are very solid citizens or interested in putting in volunteer time. They clean it up, they police it and then these trails in fact become self-policing. I am not making this up. This has been the experience throughout the United States and in rural farming areas and in urban areas in the United States where these trails have been converted. In fact, they do become a good community resource and they tend to almost become self-policing from the user point of view.

**Mr Pollock:** We had a situation on this particular line. There were some problems back at Lake St Peter, where the railroad line went right along the lake. The cottagers had their cottages on the one side of the railroad line and the lake was on the other, and they had to cross over to actually get to the lake. There was some attempt to actually run the recreation trail around behind them. However, I do not think anything has ever been done. That was just an attempt, but that is a possibility, is it not?

I know one particular situation where the abandoned railroad line goes right through the centre of a person's farm. That could be corrected for a recreation trail and go alongside his farm.

**Mr Howard:** I suppose, yes. It could be a tradeoff.

**Mr Pollock:** There is no reason why it cannot.

**The Chair:** Gentlemen, thank you very much for appearing before the committee. I am sorry, did you want to say something?

**Mr Sehmrau:** I did not have a chance to discuss our ministry's interest in the abandoned rail lines.

**The Chair:** Please do.

**Mr Sehmrau:** We are also pleased to be able to be before the committee to discuss our interest in abandoned railway rights of way, as well as the programs and services offered by our ministry which can assist in the rails-to-trails projects. Our interest in this area is reflected both in the tourism as well as the recreation mandate of our ministry.

For tourism, rails-to-trails projects can provide a number of opportunities: first, economic stimulus, particularly in rural and in small urban areas where tourism is a source of job creation. Second, it provides an additional dimension to tourism facility infrastructure by means of linking existing establishments with multi-purpose trail corridors, providing very interesting and unique ways to travel between establishments.

For recreation, rails-to-trails projects can provide also a number of opportunities: first, improved general health of Ontarians, as trails promote an active lifestyle in our society. As our baby boom population ages, there is a demonstrated need for more trail activities. Second, it is a low-cost opportunity to provide a variety of active and passive recreational activities. Access is improved by means of no- or low-cost opportunities. It provides an excellent access opportunity for physically dis-

abled people, and geographically these lines reach into the heart of communities and make it easy to get urban dwellers into the natural areas.

Third is community pride through public involvement in the preservation of historic and natural characteristics of rail corridors. Volunteers in communities are known to really rally around these rails-to-trails projects and make the communities quite proud of these projects.

Our ministry has traditionally taken a partnership approach to provision of tourist and recreational opportunities. It is an important principle being practised by our ministry. Some of the important roles that need to be played are by governments at all levels, the private profit sector, the private non-profit sector, as well as the general public. At the local level, municipal governments have a primary responsibility for stimulating and assisting the development of recreation.

The ministry's role is to encourage and support the municipal government in the execution of its enabling and facilitating role among all organizations providing recreation services. The ministry directs its programs and services—excuse me, I am losing my voice.

I wonder if it is coming back.

**Mr Fleet:** The committee appreciates your brevity.

**Mr Sehmrau:** I have been fighting this all day.

Just a few more comments. The programs and services are a co-operative effort at the local and regional provincial levels. Consulting services are provided through our ministry operations division and are accessed through the various offices throughout the province. Financial resources are available by applying the community recreation development program and the community recreation capital program.

The community recreation development program is designed to enhance the effectiveness of recreation providers and organizations through improved planning, marketing, leadership, organizational effectiveness and increased participation in research. It was this program that funded the Dillon report for Hastings county.

The community recreation capital program is designed to assist municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community recreation needs through community parks and indoor recreation facilities. It has primarily two components: one for capital conservation and one for new facilities.

I think I had better stop right here. I am available for questions.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much for that selfless effort. We appreciate it.

May I suggest, unless there are some burning questions at this point, that we move to the clause-by-clause part of the debate. Otherwise we will run out of time. That is my concern.

We thank you very much, gentlemen, for your assistance today. Everybody is welcome to stay, of course.

We are now going to look at each clause of the bill.

Section 1:

**Mr Riddell:** Here again, I guess I go back to provincial strategy for alternative uses of abandoned railway corridors. If indeed the government is interested in acquiring these abandoned lines and entering into some kind of co-operative agreement, a leasing arrangement or whatever it may be with the municipalities, then I guess I do not see all these little commissions cropping up in order to maintain and groom and what not the trails along this abandoned line. If indeed we are interested

in acquiring the land, I really think the Ministry of Natural Resources probably has the horses to look after these lines.

1730

The government is going to make a decision of some kind, and I have a feeling that it is going to acquire some of these lines, if not a lot of them, if for no other reason than they do provide recreation for an increasing population, and the population is going to have a lot more time on its hands than it has before, I firmly believe. We are wanting to bring tourists into the country, particularly in these areas that were alluded to by the last speaker, and if that is the case, then I guess I am going to find it very difficult to vote for a commission. I just do not think that with all these lines we are going to be wanting to establish a commission to look after this line and a commission to look after that line. We have MNR, we have the trained people at MNR, and I really think that it is a case of maybe MNR becoming involved in place of this commission.

So as I say, I am going to have a great deal of difficulty dealing with the bill, because we have an interministerial committee that is already looking into these abandoned railway lines, and I just do not think I want to see a whole lot of different commissions cropping up to look after certain sections of abandoned lines.

**Mr Fleet:** I want to touch on all aspects of the bill actually, because I think we can do so quite readily. I am prepared to vote in favour of the bill as it is currently proposed, with perhaps a couple of important provisos attached.

Essentially, although in committee you can get into all the technical detail, it seems to me that the information we have received indicates that basically there is a good idea here. There is a good idea about using a rail line that the rail company does not need any more, and it would clearly—and this bill's focus has been on one area—be of assistance to the locale. Hastings county would be a beneficiary, without doubt.

The people who are involved in recreational and other activities of that kind would be beneficiaries, and that means people from all over Ontario and even beyond. Local businesses would benefit; everybody is a winner. The land cost is not altogether clear, but it strikes me it is quite possible to do it.

The notion of a partnership that has been referred to by MNR today, in my view, is a very sound way to proceed. It ought not to be something the province funds wholly, because there is a significant local benefit, but at the same time it should be recognized there is a provincial interest in this, and therefore it ought not to be funded solely by the locale. There ought to be some kind of partnership worked out, and I certainly favour the proposal that was referred to by MNR which would involve private interest. I am thinking particularly of non-governmental organizations and a variety of other groups. Some corporate interests, for their own profit purposes, might get involved in terms of contribution, but the people who should run the show are people with some element of the public interest involved. It seems to me that is what this bill is designed to do.

I do not completely disagree with the notion that this one commission may not be the way to go. There may be other ways to do it. I think therefore the government ought not to act without considering the larger issues that are at stake, as the government is proceeding. But I think a vote in favour of the bill now ought to be cast, not because we are in favour of whether there is a particular commission or some technical aspect of the bill, but rather to give a signal that we like the general idea of doing something that helps people in a particular locale, and different lines might get used in different ways; that

there ought to be some kind of contribution from the province, but there ought to be a partnership approach in doing so.

The other technical arguments that one could raise today are not as critical as that overall scheme of things, and I say that as a member from Toronto who is never going to have a rail line being abandoned for this purpose. When it is abandoned in my neck of the woods, it goes for something completely different, if it ever gets abandoned at all. I rather hope they will start using them more effectively rather than abandoning them in my area.

I think everyone is a beneficiary of this kind of process along the lines, and I congratulate Mr Pollock because he has been persistent in this. I think it would be useful for us to make a sort of statement of general intent. As I say, I do not have a particular stake in whether this line goes ahead or not, or whether Goderich goes ahead or not, but I do have a sense of having a stake, along with everybody in Ontario, in fostering a better use and a co-operative approach to the use of recreational lands and activities all across the province. I think we are all winners if we do that.

If we take that approach, it might be one that will be more useful in terms of some guidance. We have had an opportunity for public input. It would help the ministry and hopefully the interministerial committee to have a sense of how it would be received. I do not want to speak for my other colleagues—they can all speak quite ably for themselves—but I suspect that would be a shared view, a sense of a positive approach to this thing.

**Mr Pollock:** I just want to put on the record that this bill is the result of the former Minister of Natural Resources sending out a letter saying that basically he was not interested in taking over any abandoned railroad lines. That was actually a letter documented to different groups.

**Mr Riddell:** Who was that, Alan Pope?

**Mr Pollock:** No, Vince Kerrio.

That is basically what that letter said. It left a little loophole that if times changed—and you have been around here long enough, all the members who had that little loophole there, that if times change and there was a need for it and all that—but basically it said that his ministry was not interested. That is when we got the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to actually do the Dillon report on this particular abandoned railroad line. Therefore, at one particular point in time, things were not even moving ahead. In fact, it looked as though they were moving the other way. That is why I suggested they have a local commission to look after that particular abandoned railroad line.

I would be delighted if the Ministry of Natural Resources would take over all these abandoned railroad lines in the province. I should not say all of them, because I do not believe it actually can afford to take them all over.

We mentioned that one line from Corbyville to Peterborough. Parts of it, I think, were in your report there. The bridge is out in Campbellford right now, so that line is severed. Basically, it goes through a lot of good farming land. I have told the farmers that particular line should go back to the farmers. But this line that I have drafted a bill on and hope to have a commission to run, it goes through very little farm land; some, but very little.

This particular Dillon report only deals with the north Marmora subdivision. That is from Marmora north. My bill goes right on down about another 20 kilometres farther south to the Trent Canal, where there is a swing bridge. That is why it started at that particular point, because I knew that no way was

any group, be it the Ministry of Natural Resources, the county of Hastings or the snowmobile clubs, was ever going to operate a swing bridge over the Trent Canal. That is why I started there with this particular bill and went north.

I do not have a big hangup where that really starts, but generally I believe that it should be a recreation trail.

**The Chair:** Are members ready for the question on section 1?

**Mr Fleet:** I am wondering if I could put a motion, subject to anyone who wants to speak from the committee, that we deal with all the sections of the bill at once, sections 1 through 8, the preamble and the title.

**The Chair:** If the committee agrees to that, that is fine.

Agreed to.

Sections 1 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

**The Chair:** That completes our examination of Bill 67. Mr Pollock, as I said earlier, we appreciate your perseverance in getting this bill to this stage of the hearings and getting it reported back to the House unamended.

**Mr Pollock:** Thank you. I know you have been very helpful too, as chairman of the committee, in trying to get this bill in front of the committee.

**The Chair:** For the witnesses, thank you for coming today as well. We appreciate your assistance.

The committee adjourned at 1740.



CONTENTS

Monday 25 June 1990

East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission Act, 1989 . . . . . R-1271

Old Hastings Snow Riders; Marmora Sled Dog Race Committee . . . . . R-1271

Interministerial Committee on Alternative Uses for Abandoned Railway Rights of Way . . . . . R-1271

Adjournment . . . . . R-1277

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

- Chair:** Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
- Vice-Chair:** Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
- Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
- Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
- Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
- Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
- Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
- Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
- Riddell, Jack (Huron L)
- Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
- Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
- Substitutions:**
- Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) for Mr Dietsch
- Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC) for Mr Harris
- Clerk:** Mellor, Lynn







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R-29 1990

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## **Legislative Assembly of Ontario**

First Session, 35th Parliament

## **Official Report of Debates (Hansard)**

Wednesday 5 December 1990

### **Standing committee on resources development**

Organization

## **Assemblée législative de l'Ontario**

Première session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## **Journal des débats (Hansard)**

Le mercredi 5 décembre 1990

### **Comité permanent du développement des ressources**

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Clerk: Harold Brown

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday 5 December 1990

The committee met at 1536 in committee room 1.

### ORGANIZATION

**Clerk of the Committee:** If I could have your attention, honourable members, it is my duty to call upon you to elect a Chair. I will now entertain nominations.

**Mr Offer:** I nominate Bob Huget as Chair.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Are there any further nominations? If not, I declare Mr Huget is Chair.

**The Chair:** It is now my pleasure to receive nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

**Mr Dadamo:** I would like to nominate Dan Waters as Vice-Chair.

**The Chair:** If there are there no further nominations, he is Vice-Chair.

We will now look at appointing a subcommittee and our clerk, Mr Brown, would like to make a few comments on what the subcommittee is all about. I am sure those of us who are new will appreciate those comments.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Just to give you a little bit of an idea of what the subcommittee does for you members who have not been through this exercise before, the subcommittee is established under the standing orders to look after matters involving agenda, to schedule meetings pursuant to the authority given to it through the House, and to look after other matters involving the committee, such as the preparation of reports, instructions to myself as clerk and to the research officer, and to bring to the attention of the committee any other business matters that the committee needs to be aware of. It consists of four persons: the Chair as Chair and one member from each recognized party.

**The Chair:** Thanks, Harold. I will now receive a motion to nominate a subcommittee on business.

**Mr Waters:** I would like to move that a subcommittee on the committee business be appointed to meet from time to time at the call of the Chair or at the request of any member thereof to consider and report to the committee on business of the committee; that substitution be permitted on the subcommittee; that the presence of all members of the subcommittee is necessary to constitute a meeting; and that the subcommittee be composed of the following, which is the Chair and a member of each of the three parties.

**The Chair:** Would you name the people on the subcommittee, Dan, please?

**Mr Waters:** The subcommittee would be the Chair, Mr Huget, myself from the New Democratic Party, and I do not have—

**Mr Miclash:** I have a nomination for the Liberal Party, that being David Ramsay.

**The Chair:** I would like the motion considered in the following fashion. Mr Waters has made a motion that has identified myself as part of the subcommittee and Mr Waters. Could we deal with that motion? Is that agreeable? Agreed.

Now we can deal with the motion from Mr Miclash. Agreed.

**Mr Jordan:** I would like to nominate Ted Arnott to the subcommittee.

**The Chair:** Agreed. The subcommittee on business therefore consists of myself, Mr Waters, Mr Ramsay and Mr Arnott.

Recognizing that Mr Offer and others are in a bit of a bind today for time, I would like to provide an opportunity for the researcher to comment on what the committee has done in the past, if we could just do that very briefly. There will be other opportunities to do this, but I would like some of that information conveyed to the committee, if you would not mind.

**Ms Luskie:** I am Lorraine Luskie and I have a one-page handout that Harold will pass out that just lists the kinds of reports and major projects that I drafted for the committee's consideration during the period January 1988 until June 1990. It gives you some indication of the kind of work that research provides for this committee.

**The Chair:** The clerk of our committee has a few announcements he would like to make at this time.

**Clerk of the Committee:** The main thing I would like to draw to your attention is an item you will find in the folder in front of you. It is a memo to you concerning notification of committee meetings. You will receive on Thursday afternoons, as members of this committee, if the committee is meeting the following week, a notice setting out the time and place of the meeting.

Also, every day you receive Orders and Notices, and the committee meetings for that day and the remainder of that week appear in that, so that is another source you may want to check. Every day you receive a business sheet and also on that sheet you will find the committee meetings for that day.

A fourth source of information about your committee is found on bulletin boards throughout the building on the previously mentioned notices, and you may wish to check there if you do not know whether your committee is meeting.

In special circumstances—short notice or any changes—my office will attempt to get in touch with your office to advise you appropriately, but in normal circumstances we would not be phoning your office to let you know about the committee meeting.

**Mr Offer:** If I might, Mr Chair, either to you or through you to the clerk, we will be meeting on Monday.



Is there anything scheduled for discussion on our next regular meeting, which I understand would probably be Monday?

**The Chair:** At this point there is not. However, that may change, and I will advise the members of the committee as quickly as possible.

**Mr Charlton:** It might be useful as well to point out that Orders and Notices will indicate matters that have been referred to the committee by the House. Members may from time to time just want to keep an eye on that.

**Ms Churley:** Just in terms of the timing, are you saying that we do not have a day yet? I am sorry. I must admit I was thinking about something and did not hear. You do not have a day. We do not know which day we will be meeting yet.

**The Chair:** We have scheduled days of Monday and Wednesday. At this point Mr Offer was wondering whether we were going to meet on Monday. I said that at this point we are not on Monday; however, we will check that out and in fact that may change. We will notify you as quickly as we can if we are going to meet on Monday.

Is there any other business before the committee?

**Mr Arnott:** For the purposes of standing order 123, I wish to table a matter for a 12-hour designation and I will read it as this time.

For the purposes of standing order 123, I request that the subcommittee on committee business meet to consider a report to the committee on the following matter to be designated for consideration by the committee:

The current status of measures being undertaken by the Ontario government to prevent and control the spread of invasive flora, fauna and other organisms throughout Ontario's natural environment—in particular the prevention and control of the European zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) in the Great Lakes and throughout Ontario's inland waterways, and the prevention and control of the spread of the purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) weed throughout Ontario's wetlands.

**The Chair:** I would request a recess for the subcommittee to meet and deal with this issue and reconvene whenever that is appropriate.

**Clerk of the Committee:** It is up to the subcommittee as to how fast we can deal with it. Half an hour or an hour?

**The Chair:** I believe an hour.

**Mr Offer:** Mr Chairman, the person who was just nominated to the subcommittee from the Liberal Party is not available at this point in time. I am wondering, on the basis of standing order 123(b) or something of that nature, whether the meeting of the subcommittee can be put off until the call of the Chair. We could probably do this even tomorrow, or whenever. Is that a possibility?

**The Chair:** Is there a possibility of a substitution on the subcommittee?

**Mr Offer:** Sure.

**Ms Churley:** Can I ask a question? Or a rule first, and then I want to ask a question about process here. I do not quite understand the process that was introduced here. Can you explain for a few minutes how issues are brought to

this committee for consideration, because I am not clear on the process in terms of how that was introduced.

**The Chair:** Mr Brown will explain that procedure to you.

**Ms Churley:** Thank you.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Under the standing orders, specifically 123, a member of the subcommittee can designate a matter which he wishes to have considered by the committee.

**Mr Charlton:** Any member of the committee.

**Clerk of the Committee:** No, it is—

**Mr Charlton:** It has to be considered by the subcommittee.

**Clerk of the Committee:** The designation has to be made by a member of the subcommittee. The matter is taken under consideration by the subcommittee and the subcommittee is required to fulfil certain obligations in considering it.

For example, the subcommittee would consider the matter to be considered by the committee, the time to be allocated for the consideration of that matter up to 12 hours and the date when the matter should be taken into consideration by the committee. The subcommittee also considers the names of any witnesses who will be invited to appear before the committee. That subcommittee report is then made to the committee and, when that report is made to the committee, it is deemed adopted by the committee.

The member making the designation, in this case Mr Arnott, is required to indicate the matter to be considered. It is also up to the member making the designation to indicate the amount of time to be allotted to the matter. It is up to the subcommittee to determine when the consideration by the committee should start. It is also up to the subcommittee who the witnesses would be who are invited or called.

The matter designated in this manner is subordinate only to government legislation that has been referred to the committee. If there is government legislation referred to the committee. Then this matter is postponed until that government legislation has been concluded.

I guess the problem being confronted at this point in time is the fact that it is necessary that the subcommittee report be made to the committee outside the last eight days of the sessional sitting this month.

**Mr Offer:** Clerk, would you give us with some degree of certainty when the last day would be available for such a report by the subcommittee to be received by this committee?

**Clerk of the Committee:** Without special arrangements, it would be today. The special arrangements to which I refer would be the fact that the committee is not authorized to sit tomorrow. But this is the week it would have to be considered.

**Mr Charlton:** Can we have a copy of the motion available?

**The Chair:** Mr Charlton moves that the committee recess while the subcommittee meets to consider this mat-

ter and that the committee reconvene to hear the report of the subcommittee this afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** I would say that 5 o'clock would be an appropriate time for us to meet.

The committee recessed at 1559.

1724

**The Chair:** I am pleased to present the report of the subcommittee on committee business.

"The subcommittee met on Wednesday 5 December 1990 pursuant to standing order 123 to consider a report to the committee on the following matter designated by Mr Arnott for consideration by the committee:

"The current status of measures being undertaken by the Ontario government to prevent and control the spread of invasive flora and fauna and other organisms throughout Ontario's natural environment—in particular the prevention and control of the European zebra mussel in the Great Lakes and throughout Ontario's inland waterways, and the prevention and control of the spread of the purple loosestrife weed throughout Ontario's wetlands.

"This matter to be considered for a period of 12 hours.

"It was agreed that the proposal by Mr Arnott be considered by the committee as follows:

"That the public hearings be commenced at a time to be determined by the whips; if there is government legislation referred to the committee, then this matter should be

considered at the first possible date upon completion of the government legislation;

"That the committee invite the following to appear: the Federation of Ontario Naturalists; the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Ontario Hydro; Ontario Cottagers' Association; representative, Ministry of Natural Resources; representative, Great Lakes Institute; representative, Department of Fisheries Canada; representative, Ontario Marina Operators; representative, city of Niagara Falls; representative, Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario; representative, Association of Municipalities of Ontario; representative, Ontario Petroleum Association; representative, Detroit-Edison, and others to be determined by the subcommittee;

"and authority be given to the subcommittee to make any necessary changes to this list and to allocate the time for each appointment of each witness as may be required, and to ensure the schedule allows time for the committee to consider the final draft of the report;

"That the subcommittee be authorized to give direction to the research officer writing the report and to give their approval to the final draft of that report which would be submitted to the full committee; and

"That the Chair be authorized to table the report in the House upon receipt of the final approved draft."

Is this report deemed accepted by the committee?

**Mr Charlton:** So deemed.

The committee adjourned at 1728.

**CONTENTS**

Wednesday 5 December 1990

<b>Organization</b> .....	R-1279
<b>Adjournment</b> .....	R-1281

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT****Chair:** Huget, Bob (Sarnia NDP)**Vice-Chair:** Waters, Daniel (Muskoka-Georgian Bay NDP)

Amott, Ted (Wellington PC)

Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Churley, Marilyn (Riverdale NDP)

Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)

Dadamo, George (Windsor-Sandwich NDP)

Jordan, Leo (Lanark-Renfrew PC)s

Klopp, Paul (Huron NDP)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

Ramsay, David (Timiskaming L)

Wood, Len (Cochrane North NDP)

**Substitutions:** Silipo, Tony (Dovercourt NDP) for Mr Klopp**Clerk:** Brown, Harold**Staff:** Luski, Lorraine, Research Officer, Legislative Research Service



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# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 12 December 1990

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 12 décembre 1990

## Standing committee on resources development

Organization

## Comité permanent du développement des ressources

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday 12 December 1990

The committee met at 1615 in committee room 1.

### ORGANIZATION

**The Chair:** Today's agenda is reports of the subcommittee and consideration of a budget.

I will read report 2 of the subcommittee:

"The subcommittee met on Tuesday 11 December 1990 to consider the request for sitting time during the winter recess. It was agreed that the Chair should request one week of sitting time during the winter recess and that preferably the committee would sit during the week of 28 January 1991.

"The subcommittee considered a tentative witness list for the committee consideration of the zebra mussels matter and after some discussion the meeting adjourned."

May I request a motion to accept report 2 of the subcommittee?

Moved by Mr Dadamo.

Agreed.

Report 3 of the subcommittee on business:

"The subcommittee met on Wednesday 12 December 1990 to consider the witness list for invitation to appear with respect to the matter designated by the committee under standing order 123 relating to zebra mussels and loosestrife.

"The witnesses to be invited are as follows:

"Dr Joe Leach, Ministry of Natural Resources, Wheatley; Dr Gerry Mackie, University of Guelph; Ministry of Natural Resources—panel; Ministry of the Environment—panel; Dr Dave Garton, Ohio State University; Don Schloesser, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Ontario Hydro; Lambton Industrial Society; Canada Coast Guard; Municipal Engineers Association; Ontario Marina Operators Association; Canadian Mariners Association; Federation of Ontario Cottagers; Conservation Council of Ontario; Federation of Ontario Naturalists; Canadian Environmental Law Association and/or International Joint Commission and Great Lakes United; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Greenpeace.

"The committee will plan to meet during the week of 28 January 1991 unless directed otherwise by the House."

I will accept a motion to move acceptance of report 3 of the subcommittee.

Moved by Ms Churley.

Agreed.

The next order of business is a budget and we are in the process of passing that out. Does everybody have a copy? I will ask Harold Brown to get into the specifics of the budget and provide his insight and comments.

**Clerk of the Committee:** The budget you have before you is what we would call a barebones budget for the purpose of this committee to meet for the one week as requested. It provides for per diems for members, the

translation of a report, the attendance of witnesses, the printing of a report and other administrative costs that are incurred through the operation of the committee on a day-to-day basis. In the event that the committee ever has to travel or requests further meeting time, that would have to go by way of a supplementary budget to the board. This is the basic budget.

**Mr Klopp:** How long are we going to meet? We are going to meet for four days for sure? Does it mean that we are going to meet for four days, 12 hours, on this particular issue?

**The Chair:** That is correct.

**Mr Klopp:** Excuse my ignorance. I am sorry that I missed the first meeting.

**The Chair:** It would be 12 hours.

**Mr Klopp:** Are we going to meet four hours per day or does this mean that we can go up to four days?

**The Chair:** You would be looking at four hours of witness hearings per day.

**Clerk of the Committee:** If I may help, Mr Klopp, the four days are provided in the event that we cannot in fact schedule the witnesses over the three days desired and we may have to run into the fourth day.

**Mr Klopp:** I can probably find things to do.

**The Chair:** Are there any questions or discussion on the budget? Seeing none, could I have a motion to accept the budget?

**Mr Arnott:** One question. Could the clerk explain the figure of \$2,000 for catering?

**Clerk of the Committee:** The coffee that we are drinking today has to be paid for, as it has been in the past and will be in the future. In the event that we have to travel, which we do not at this point, that also covers any coffee service or meeting room service from a restaurant.

**Mr Ramsay:** The printing costs seem very high. What is the distribution? Is it the distribution of the number of copies or is this specifically the printing of reports? Why is that \$7,000?

**Clerk of the Committee:** Actually, I am hoping that we can get a report done for \$7,000. Printing costs, we have experienced, have gone up considerably over the past year. The reports that I have had experience with have run between \$4,500 and about \$8,500, and \$7,000 is not an extensive report to have printed. The number of copies that are usually printed of a report runs in the order of 750 to 900. It depends on the extensiveness of the witness list as well as a number of copies that have to be delivered to Publications Ontario for sale at the bookstore.

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions or discussion?

**Ms Churley:** I take it that this is pretty much a routine budget?

**Clerk of the Committee:** Pretty much the only variable you see on this budget to any other budget you will see is if there are additional reports prepared or if there is additional meeting time required. Those are the main variables in the committee budget.

**The Chair:** If there is no further discussion, I would receive a motion to move acceptance of the budget.

Mr Wood so moves.

Agreed.

That concludes the items on the agenda for today's session. I will say, however, that there may be a need for the subcommittee and the full committee to meet next week in the event that we are given legislation by the House. I just want to advise you of that. I do not have anything to tell you other than that at the moment, but it may very well be that we are required to meet next week and I will advise you. Any other business before the committee?

**Mr Ramsay:** I have a technical question about legislation being referred to the committee. Do we have any choice in the timing of when we consider that or is that determined by the House leaders? I am not familiar with how that is done.

**Clerk of the Committee:** If I may, Mr Chairman, if the committee is charged with considering legislation, the request for the time has to be made to the House leaders for the committee to sit and it has to sit according to the order of the House. The length of time is contained within

the request of the committee as to when it should sit, and any government legislation takes precedence over the matter that we have before the committee at this time. So our schedule for the zebra mussels matter would be preempted by government legislation.

**Mr Ramsay:** Just automatically.

**Clerk of the Committee:** Automatically.

**Mr Ramsay:** Unless the House leaders agreed that—would they let us go ahead with our week and then start the next week?

**Clerk of the Committee:** That would have to be contained within the authority of the House's direction.

**The Chair:** If there is no further business before the committee, before adjourning today's session, I would like to make a couple of comments.

One of them is that I was very pleased yesterday with the spirit and co-operation that we had in subcommittee in determining the witness list and the format for the hearings.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the research staff, Lewis Yeager and Lorraine Luski, for providing some much-needed guidance in putting together a good format. I am extremely pleased with the outcome of yesterday's session and I am looking forward to very, very informative and productive sessions in the third week in January.

If there is no further business before the committee, I will move adjournment.

The committee adjourned at 1626.



## CONTENTS

Wednesday 12 December 1990

<b>Organization</b> .....	R-1283
<b>Adjournment</b> .....	R-1284

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

**Chair:** Huget, Bob (Sarnia NDP)

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Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Churley, Marilyn (Riverdale NDP)

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